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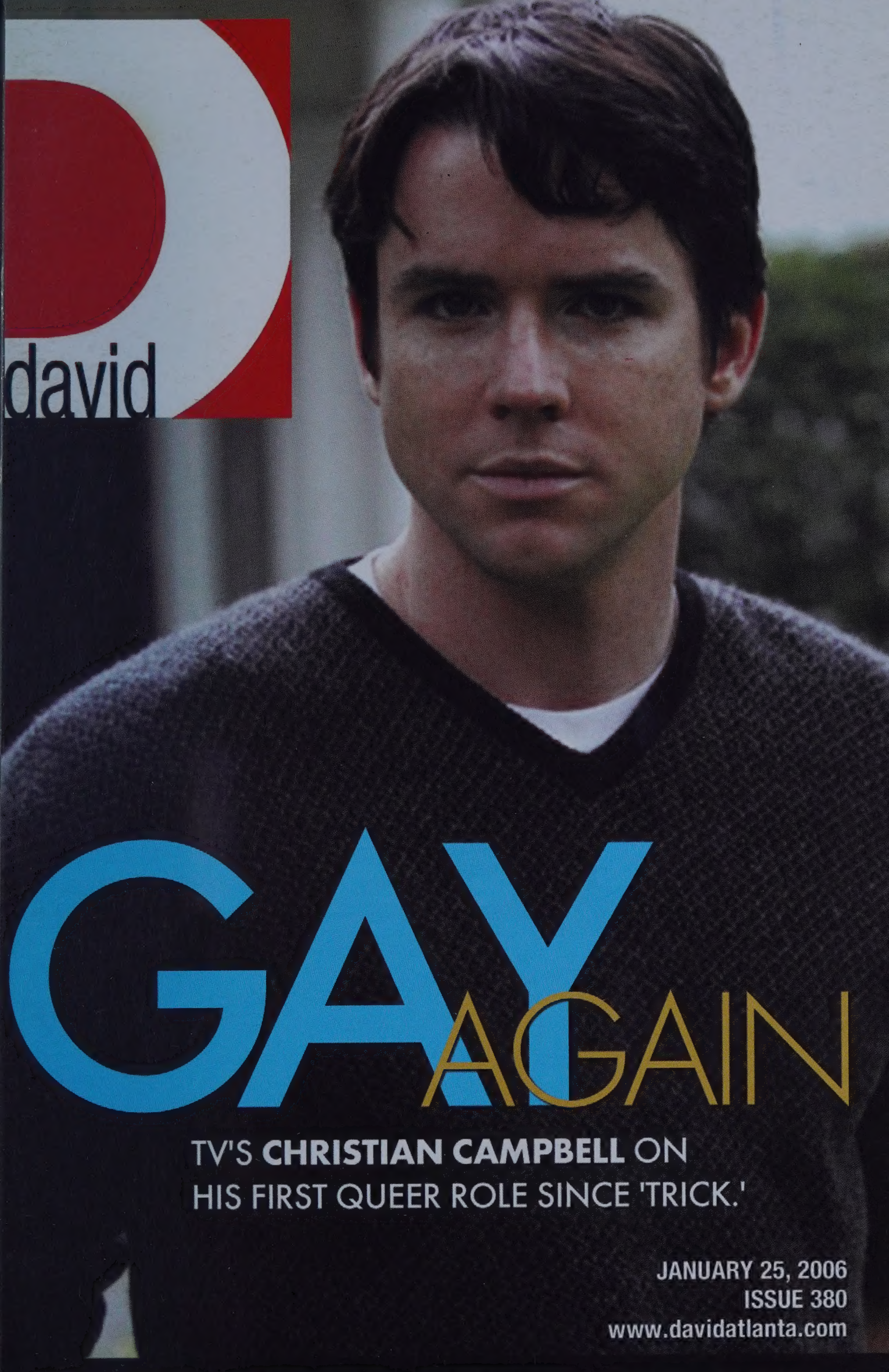

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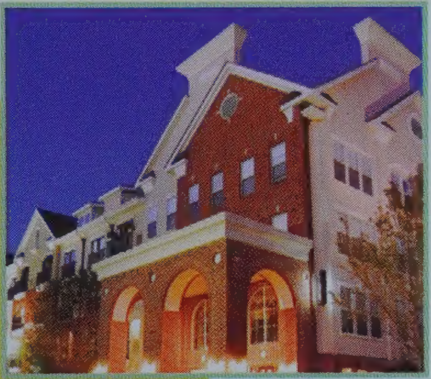

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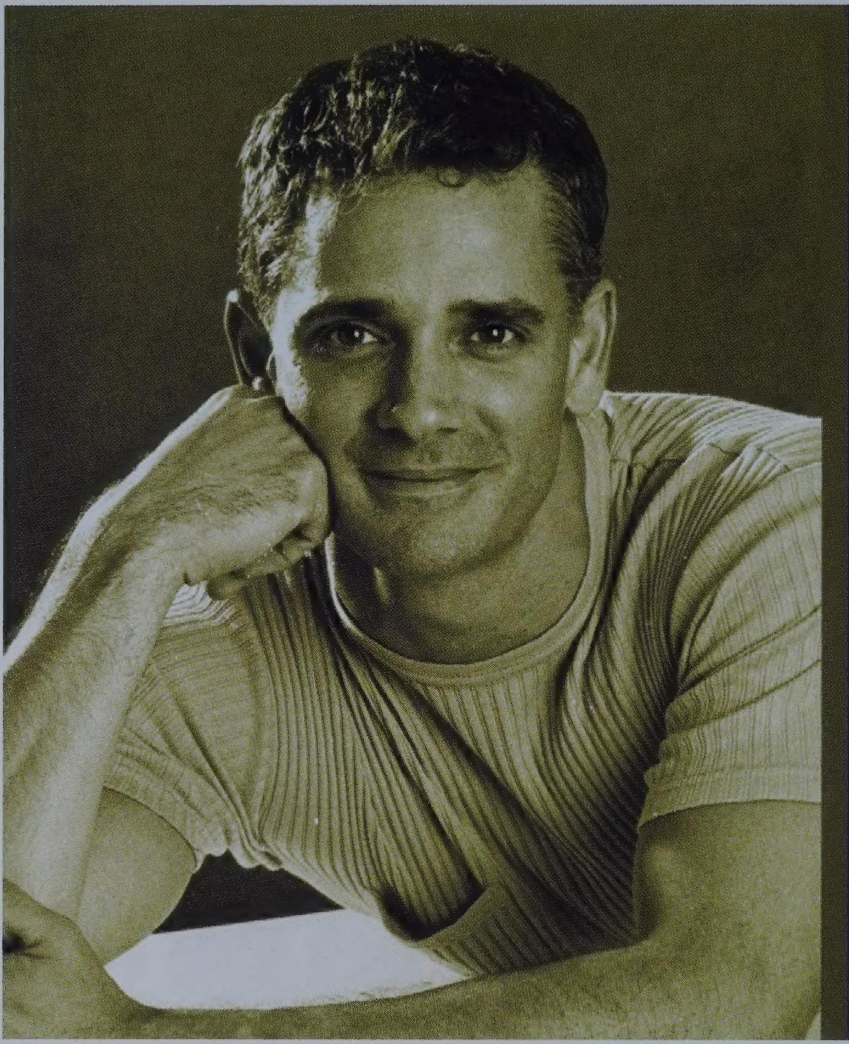

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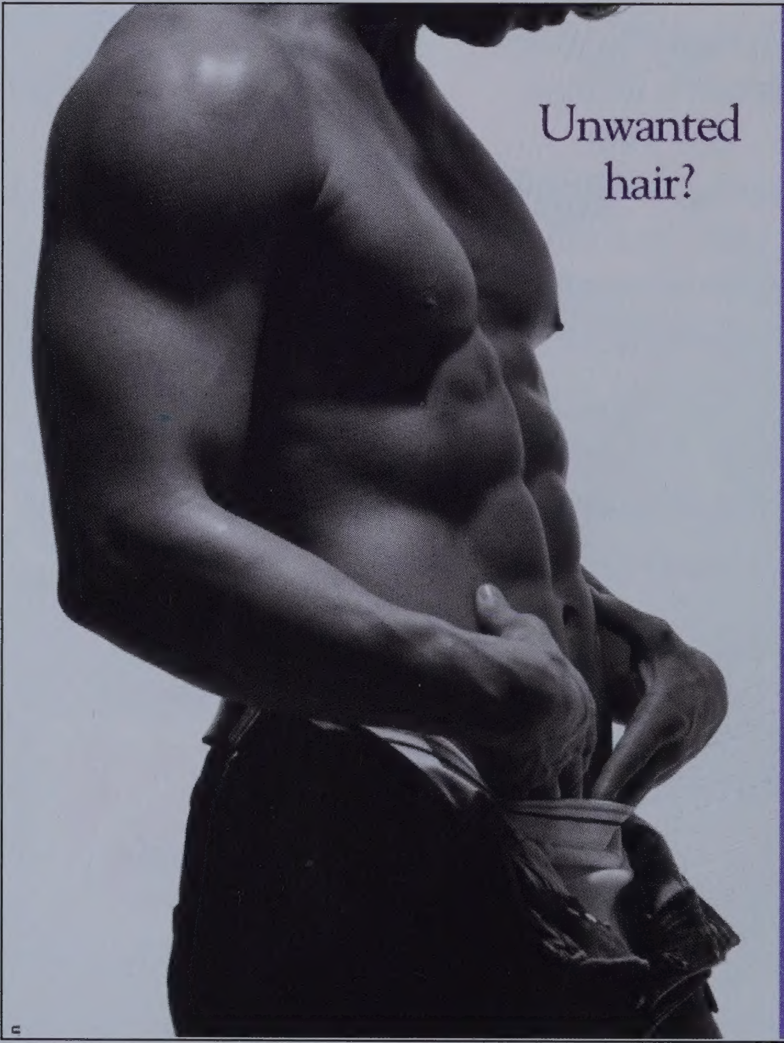

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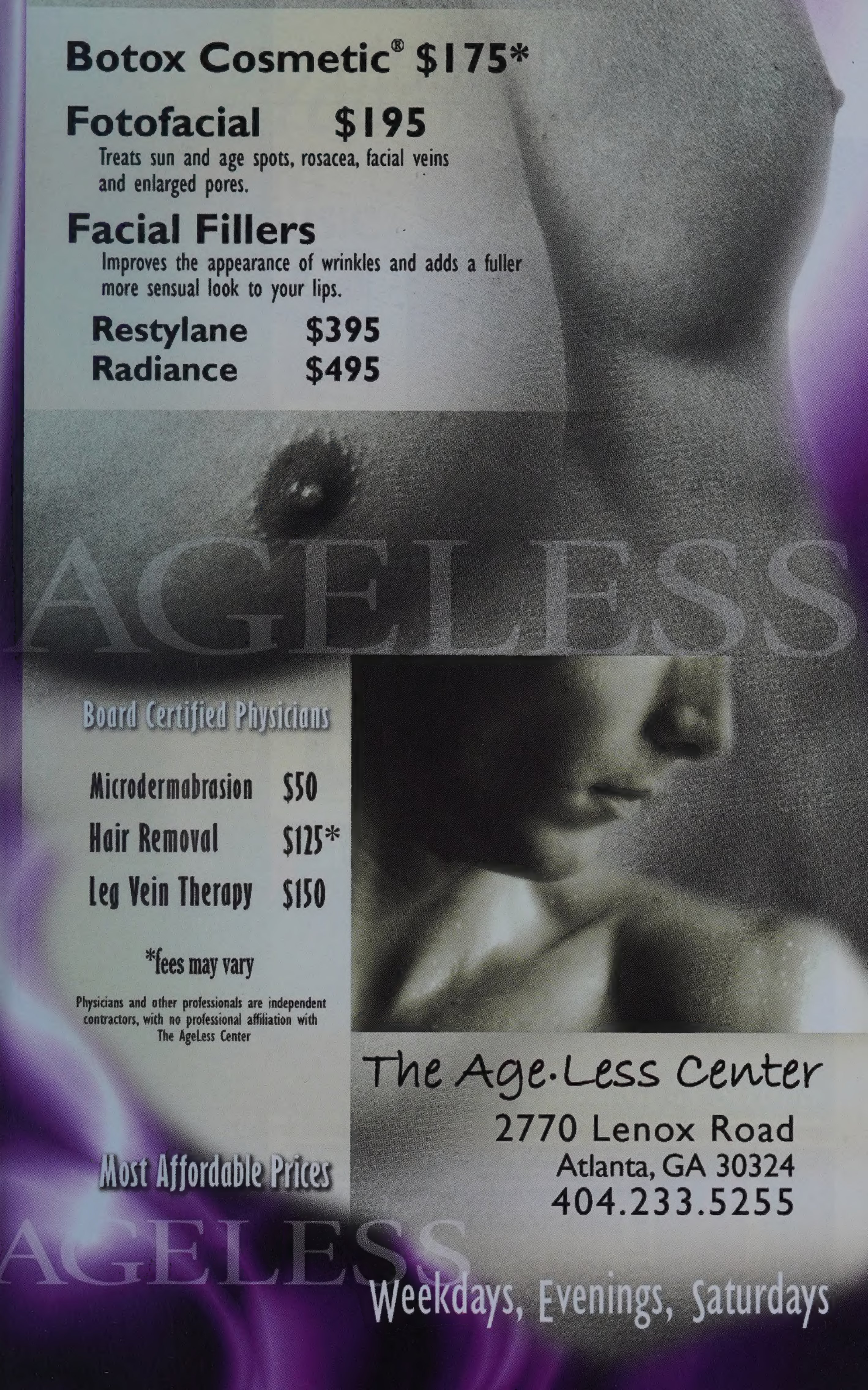

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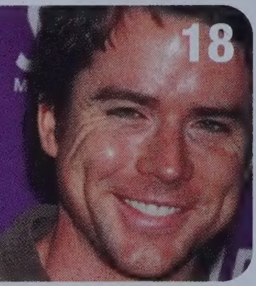

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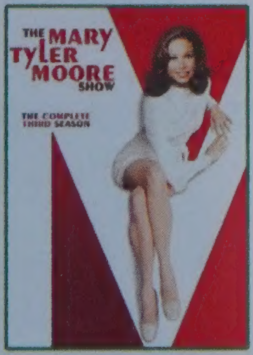
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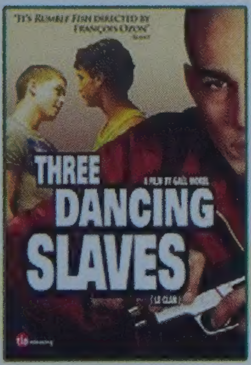
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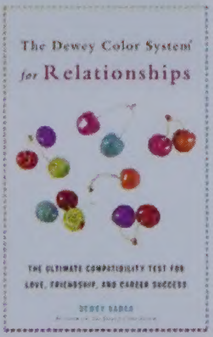
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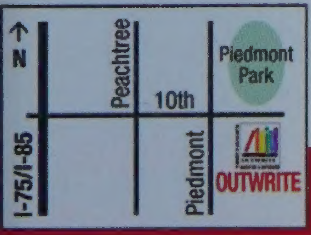
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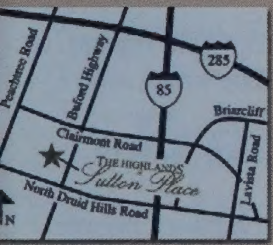
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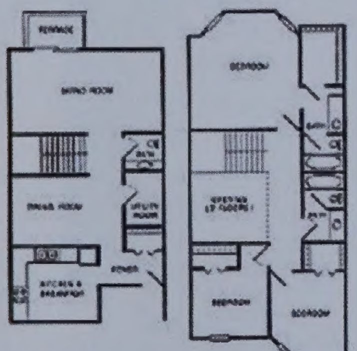

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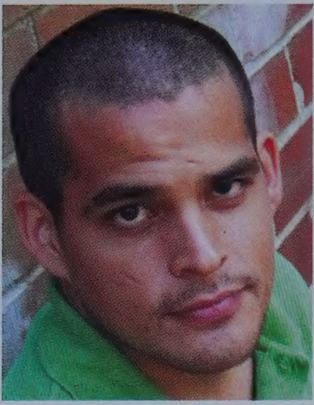

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BY RYAN LEE

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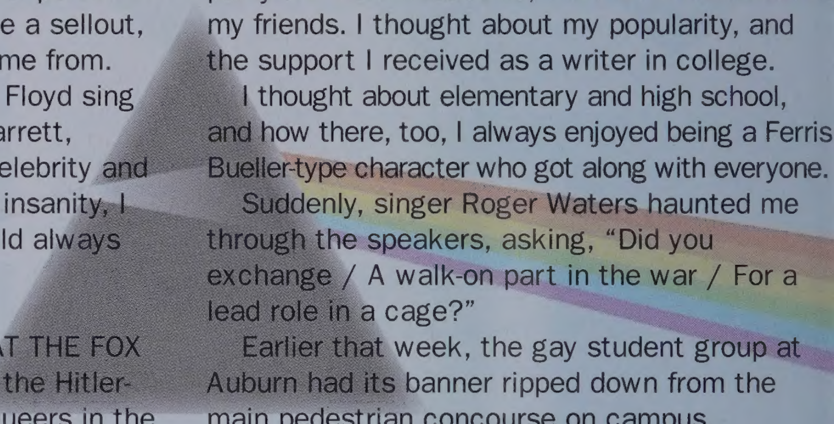

"HELLO, MY NAME IS MISS FLOYD, F-L-O-Y-D. No relation to Pink."

My night school biology teacher's quirky introduction to the class was one of my earliest encounters with the band whose music still inspires endless soul searching for me.

I didn't actually hear a Pink Floyd song until a few years later, when one of my favorite radio DJs included "Wish You Were Here" in a montage tribute to comedian Chris Farley after he died. I liked the song when I thought it was sweet and sentimental, but fell in love with it once I realized it was a bitter rejection of phoniness.

As an adolescent developing my sense of identity, I knew little about the kind of person I wanted to be other than I couldn't be a sellout, or someone who forgot where he came from.

Listening to the members of Pink Floyd sing about their former front man, Syd Barrett, wasting his talented life by letting celebrity and fame overwhelm him to the point of insanity, I prided myself on knowing that I would always be someone who keeps it real.

AT THE PINK FLOYD LASER SHOW AT THE FOX Theatre, I let out a loud holler when the Hitler-esque voice asked, "Are there any queers in the theatre tonight? Get 'em up against the wall!"

I thought about not yelling because I could tell the married man sitting next to us was a bit uncomfortable with the way my boyfriend and I held each other's hands and thighs throughout the show; but given the opportunity, I had to represent.

The married man chuckled, and I could tell he appreciated the irony in my response.

I finally got a chance to see the legendary laser show when it came to town a couple of weeks ago. The fusion of light and sound that defines Pink Floyd's style was amazing to experience in person, but the most meaningful part of the show for me was definitely my gay pride moment.

It wasn't the first time the band helped liberate my sexuality. In college, I used to wear a "Dark Side of the Moon" T-shirt on gay "holidays" like National Coming Out Day, or the annual Day of Silence. I considered the iconic rainbow image from the album cover my silent protest, a form of self-affirmation.

Completely unaware of my hidden motives, classmates and strangers complimented me on my awesome shirt. Completely closeted, I simply said, "Thanks."

I MIGHT STILL BE CLOSETED IF IT WEREN'T FOR Pink Floyd.

One night, I was waiting for my fraternity brother to pick me up, sitting in my dorm room with black-light and haze filling the air — "Wish You Were Here" blaring from the speakers.

I thought about the fun awaiting us at the party we were headed to, with folks I considered my friends. I thought about my popularity, and the support I received as a writer in college.

I thought about elementary and high school, and how there, too, I always enjoyed being a Ferris Bueller-type character who got along with everyone.

Suddenly, singer Roger Waters haunted me through the speakers, asking, "Did you exchange / A walk-on part in the war / For a lead role in a cage?"

Earlier that week, the gay student group at Auburn had its banner ripped down from the main pedestrian concourse on campus. Undoubtedly, we are living in a time of war.

It was also undeniable that instead of standing beside my people during our war to exist with dignity, I gleefully accepted being popular in my closeted cage.

THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, I told myself. They wouldn't embrace me if they knew who I really am.

But they understood. Eventually, most of them always do.

Never underestimate the capacity of people to grow, and expand their thinking in order to continue loving you. And never be satisfied playing the role you think they like best.

Shine on, You Crazy Diamond.

Ryan Lee has the 'Dark Side of the Moon' album cover tattooed on his arm. E-mail him at RLee@DavidAtlanta.com

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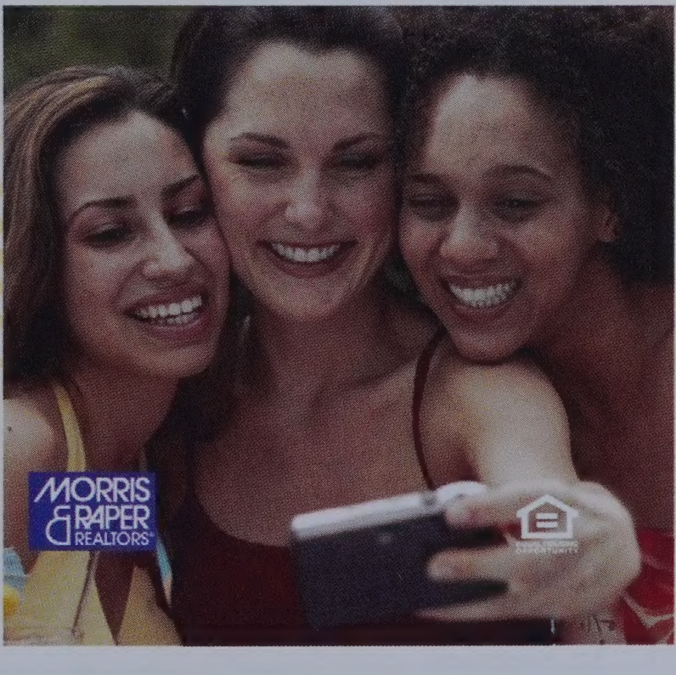
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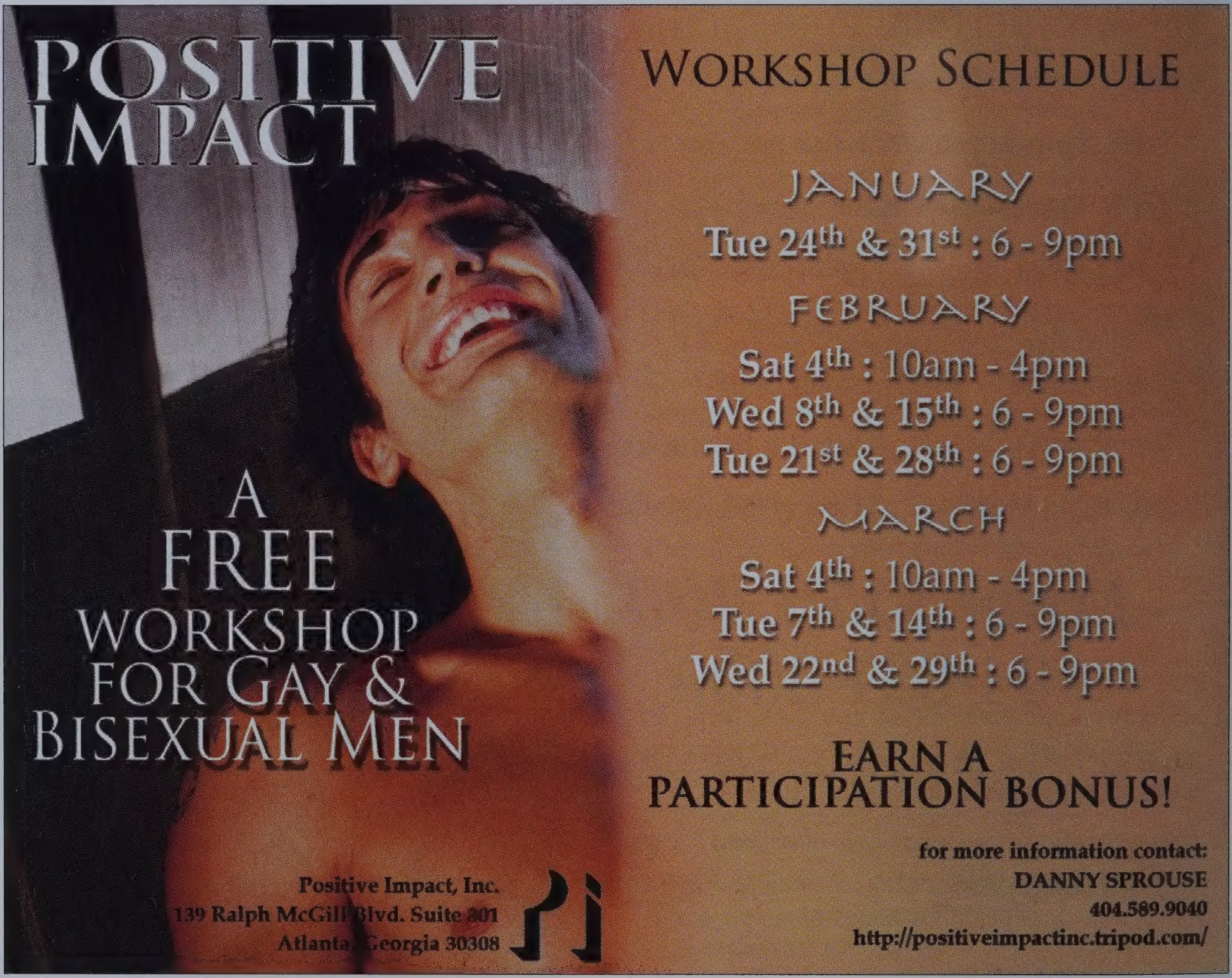
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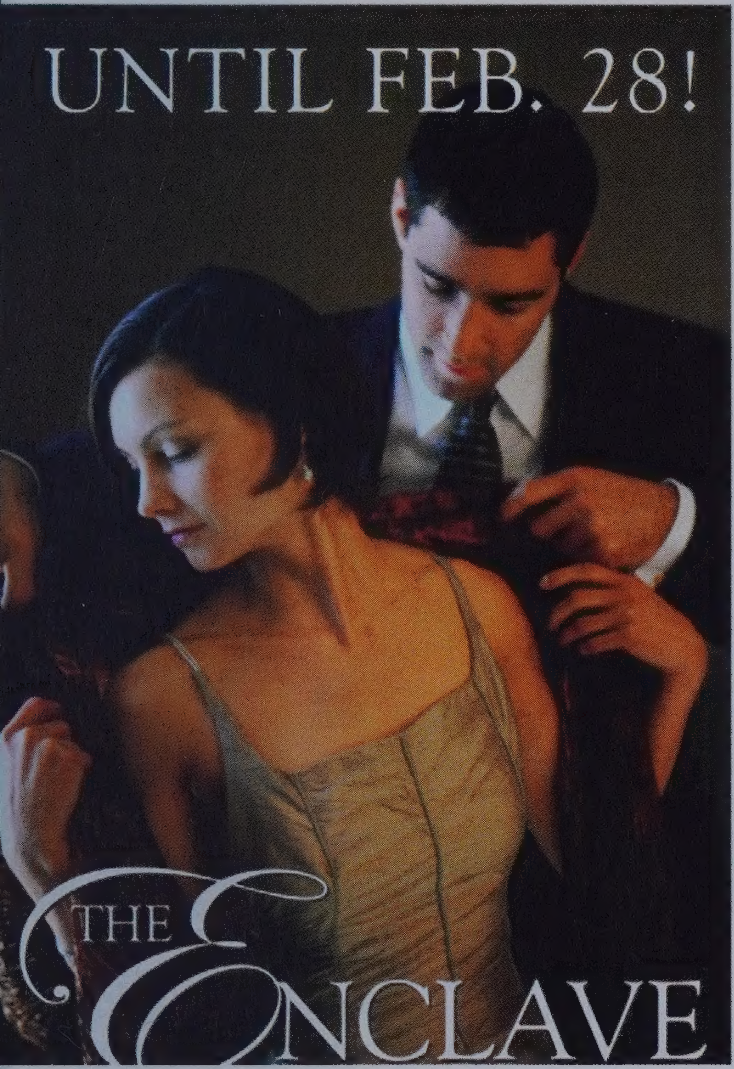
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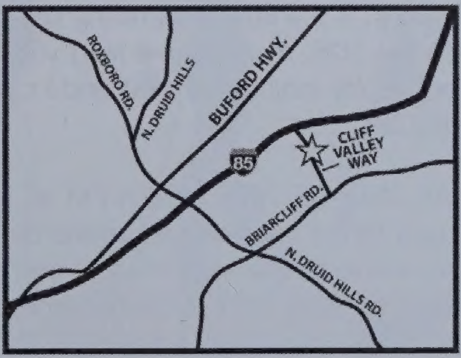
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MAYBE IT'S JUST ME

BY TOPHER PAYNE

REJECTIONS on a DANCE FLOOR

Hanging up **my inhibitions** without my friend vodka

MY BUDDY GEORGE AND I ARE OUT AT THE BAR, and as a pleasant twist, his boyfriend Johnny has joined us. Johnny's grown tired of hearing about all the adventures we've been having without him.

It's a situation that could easily leave me feeling like their third wheel, but I've decided to pretend I've got two hot dates, like Colin Farrell at awards shows.

The dance floor is packed. Considering the cover we just paid, it sure as shit better be.

I find a comfy corner with my drink and my dates for some first-class people watchin'. The scene is straight outta Madonna's "Hung Up" video, except there's no middle-aged woman shoving people around and dry-humping a ghetto blaster. Not yet, anyway.

We lose George pretty quickly, as he feels the call of the rhythm and heads out to gyrate with strangers. Johnny and I decide to focus, for the time being, on drinking heavily. Isn't it fantastic how much easier it is to be a wallflower when there's alcohol involved?

When I was in high school, I always felt awkward and exposed as I hung on the wall and watched people dance. But add a decade and a cocktail, and you can adopt a knowing, above-it-all expression that says, "I would be dancing, but I worry I would spill my overpriced alcoholic beverage."

Then, if you keep drinking, eventually dancing might seem like a good idea. When I think about it, it's a little frustrating that I have to have a few (OK, more than a few) vodka tonics before my inhibitions melt and I can get my groove on.

THIS MAY ONLY BE TRUE WHEN I'M AT HOME. I think back to my last few excursions out of town and realize that when I travel, I don't think twice about heading right out onto the floor.

When I was in Scotland, I'd hit C.C. Bloom's (which really does exist, and Margaret Cho was right, it is the gayest place on Earth) almost every night, dancing 'til the wee hours to godawful Euro-pop and a surprising amount of Destiny's Child. I never gave a second thought to whether I looked like an idiot out there.

Of course I did. All gay men look like they're having hormone-induced seizures when they're dancing. That's what makes it fun.

I share these observations with Johnny, who instantly names several different cities where he was magically transformed into the proverbial Dancing Queen.

Which begs the question: What is it about being off home turf that can turn a wallflower into the belle of the ball?

Am I really so concerned that I'm going to run into someone the next day at Kroger, who stops me while I'm innocently buying tomatoes and says, "Hey, I saw you dancing last night. It was terrifying. Please don't ever do that again. By the way, I took pictures, and showed them to all my friends. And we laughed. A lot."

And then he guffaws and walks away, perhaps looking over his shoulder, then pointing and doing some variation of that dance Elaine did on "Seinfeld."

OKAY, APPARENTLY THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF. Did an adolescence filled with awkward school dances convince me I can't happily cut a rug around people I marginally know without fear of judgment?

So tonight, I say screw it. I grab Johnny and we join the throngs of shirtless men tripping the light fantastic. And for just a little while, we let go.

The floor rotates, giving me a full view of the room and simultaneously making me feel like a pie on display at Shoney's, but in a good way. I remember that's supposed to be the point: Taking a break from all the slings and arrows of daily existence, and celebrating the part of being queer that straight people always assume is true: We know how to throw down and have a good time.

There's so much for me to overanalyze tomorrow, when the lighting's not as flattering and the people aren't as ecstatic. Tonight, for once, I'm just having fun.

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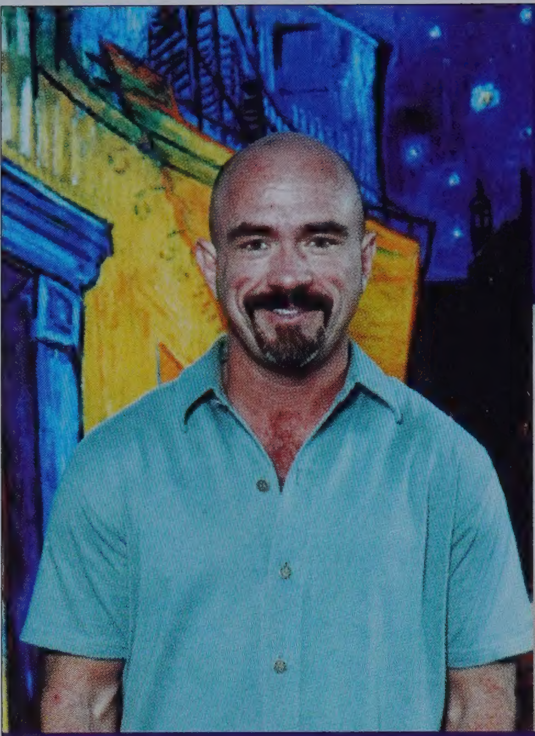

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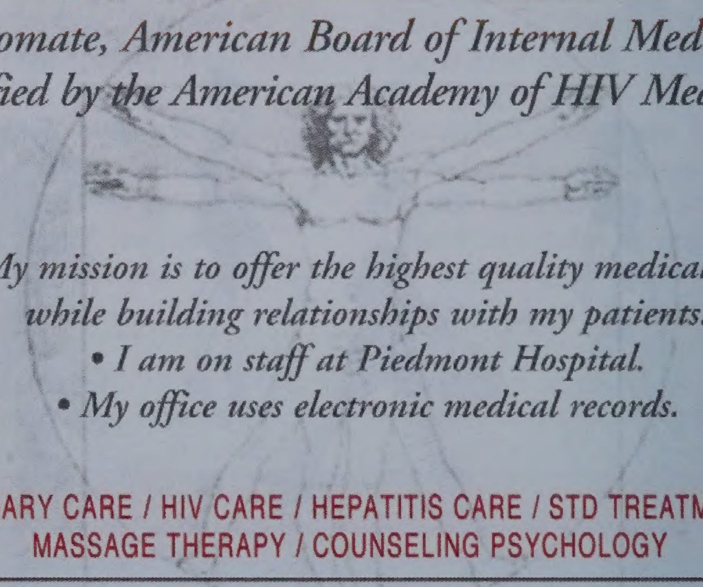

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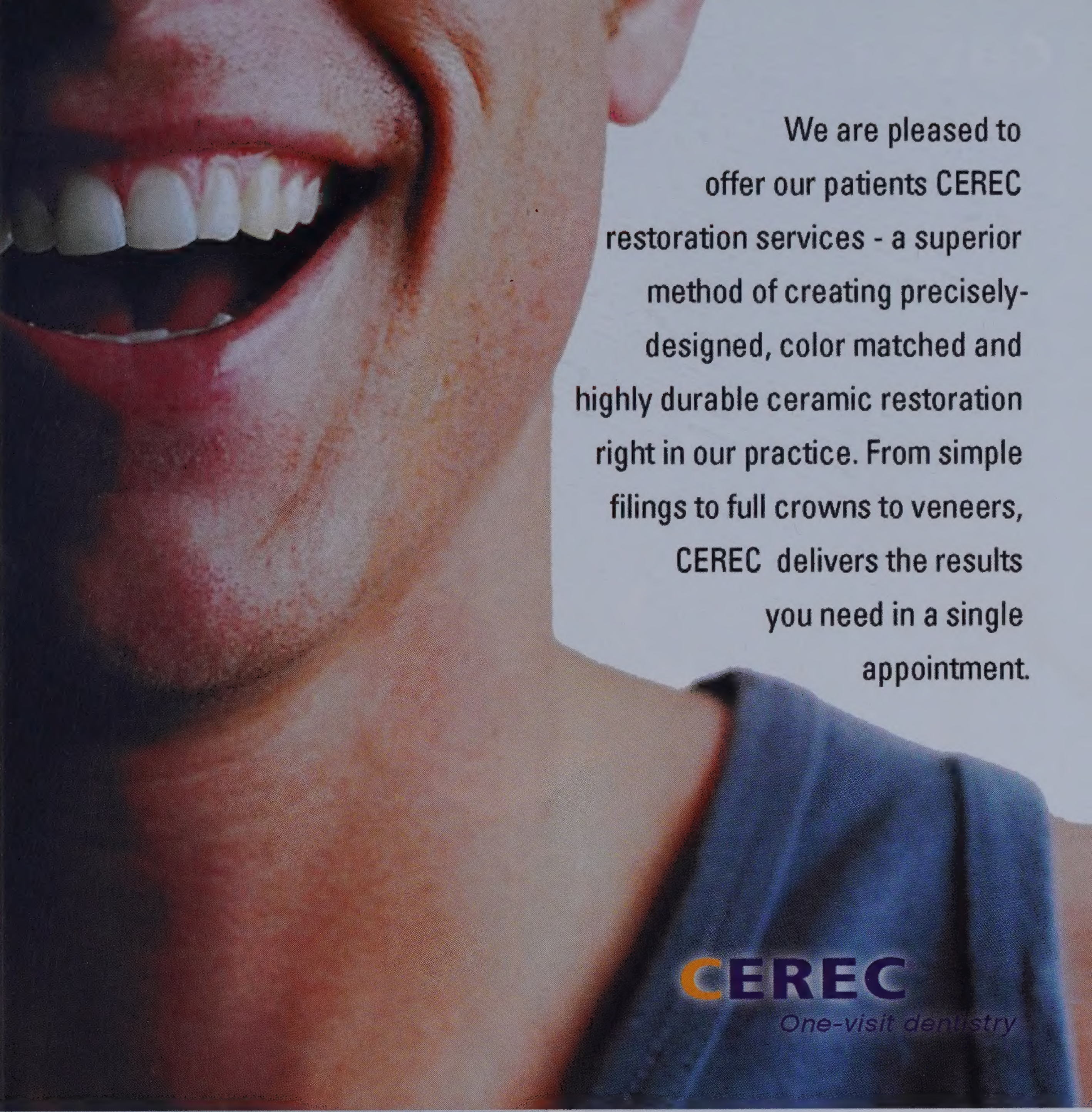

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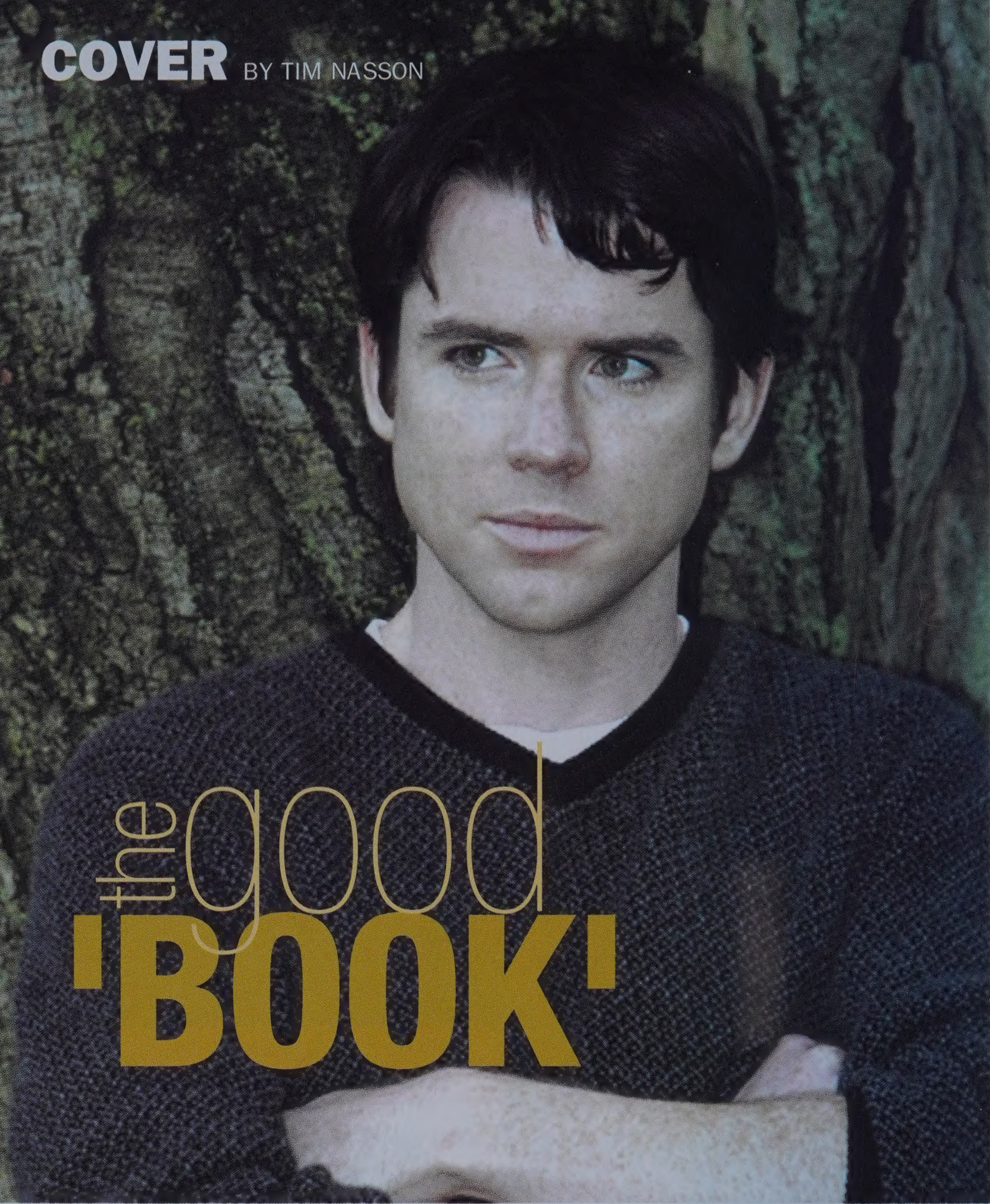


the good 'BOOK'

Christian Campbell plays gay again on NBC's 'Daniel'

YOU MIGHT THINK THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT WOULD love a new television show featuring a star named Christian Campbell.

But really, is there any show on primetime television that those wackos would endorse?

Not surprisingly, conservative Christians are thumping their bibles at NBC's new series, "The Book of Daniel," in which Campbell plays the cute 23-year-old gay son of a troubled priest, played by Aidan Quinn.

"A lot of Americans do not like to be told what to watch or not to watch," Campbell says, brushing off conservative calls for viewers and advertisers to boycott the show.

NBC initially said no to "The Book of Daniel," reveals Campbell, whom gay audiences may know best from the popular 1999 gay film, "Trick." The sexy straight actor is also a big supporter of gay and AIDS-related benefits in Boston, New York and Los Angeles, and he pulls no punches when defending his new show from "hypocrites."

"The first 13 episodes were shot almost a year ago, as the show was a candidate for debuting last fall in the new fall lineup," Campbell says. "NBC realized that the show would have gotten lost if it had debuted with the throngs of other new shows. It would have been disastrous.

"Having it come on now, mid-season, is going to give it a much bigger chance of succeeding, because there is nothing that the studio can replace us with," he adds. "We are replacing other shows that have been canceled or that have gone on hiatus."

SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN "Desperate Housewives" and "Weeds" is "The Book of Daniel," a tale about an unusual family.

The show stars Quinn as Rev. Daniel Webster, an unconventional Episcopalian priest who pops Vicodin like candy. His pharmaceutical addiction may contribute to the conversations he has with Jesus, literally.

Webster is challenged on many levels as he struggles to be a good husband, father and minister, while navigating an often rocky relationship with the church hierarchy, led by Bishop Beatrice Congreve (Ellen Burstyn).

Like the children in many Christian families, Webster's three kids have got issues out the ass. Campbell plays Peter, who's way out to his family, but also sometimes-closeted and struggling with the loss of his twin brother. He tells Daniel in the premiere episode that he doesn't mind being out, but he wants to be known as more than "the gay son" and doesn't want to "march in any parades or anything."

Alison Pill plays his 16-year-old drug-dealing sister, Grace, a talented Manga artist.

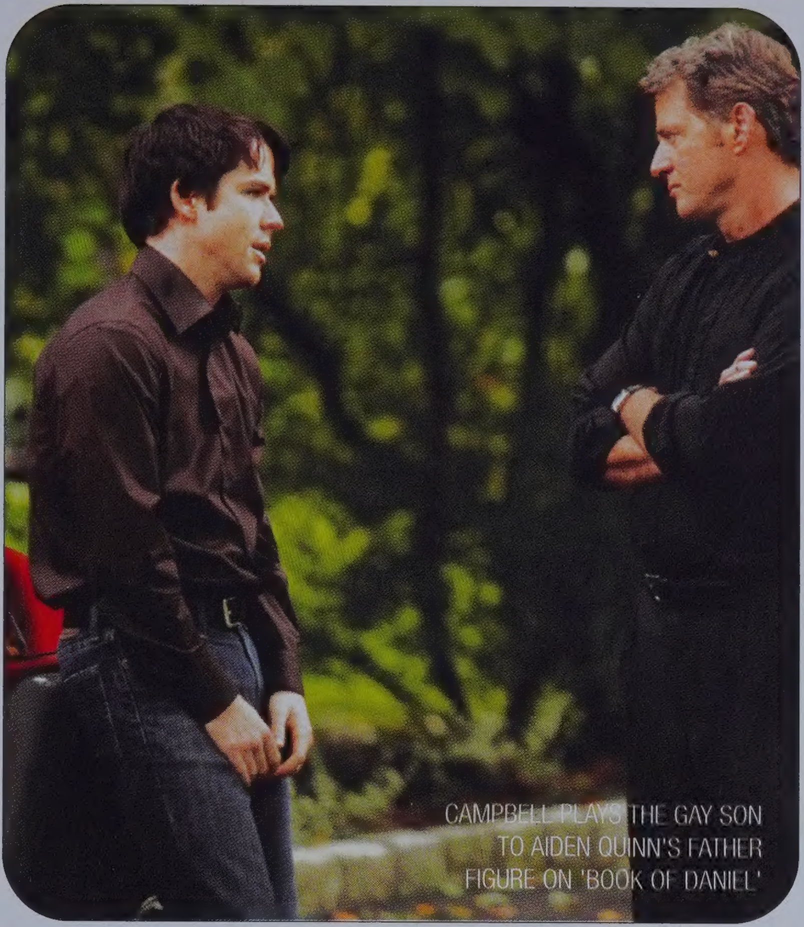
Then there's Ivan Shaw as Adam, Webster's 16-year-old adopted Chinese son. He's a handsome and cocky high school jock with a wicked sense of humor, and he thinks only with his dick.

Keeping Webster grounded is his strong, loving wife Judith (Susanna Thompson), whose fondness for Martinis stretches from sunrise to whenever she plops her drunken head on her pillow.

And you thought your family was jacked up.

"I think 'The Book of Daniel' will create discussion, at the very least, which is always a great thing," Campbell says. "Not everyone has to agree with what is going on in the show, but if the show creates and opens up a dialogue, that would be great."

The show is "for people who know how to think for themselves and don't need to be told how to believe one particular thing or another," he adds.



CAMPBELL PLAYS THE GAY SON TO AIDEN QUINN'S FATHER FIGURE ON 'BOOK OF DANIEL'

CAMPBELL LIVES IN NEW YORK CITY BUT IS A citizen of Canada, birthplace of he and his siblings, including actress sister Neve. He has a theory about what is going on in America today.

"A lot of people, who are undoubtedly 'religious,' feel disenfranchised, hijacked by the religious right," he says. "The religious right is always screaming from the top of their lungs that everything is either black or white. But there are a lot of religious people, even those who identify as conservative Christians, who have gay children, siblings or a parent.

"While they may preach that certain things are wrong from the pulpit, they know, down deep, that they are wrong. They are two faced," he says.

"They take a stand in public about certain issues they are taught to believe are wrong in the biblical sense, but in the confines of their own home and with their families, they embrace their gay children or the daughter who had an abortion."

'The Book of Daniel' airs Fridays at 10 p.m. on NBC.

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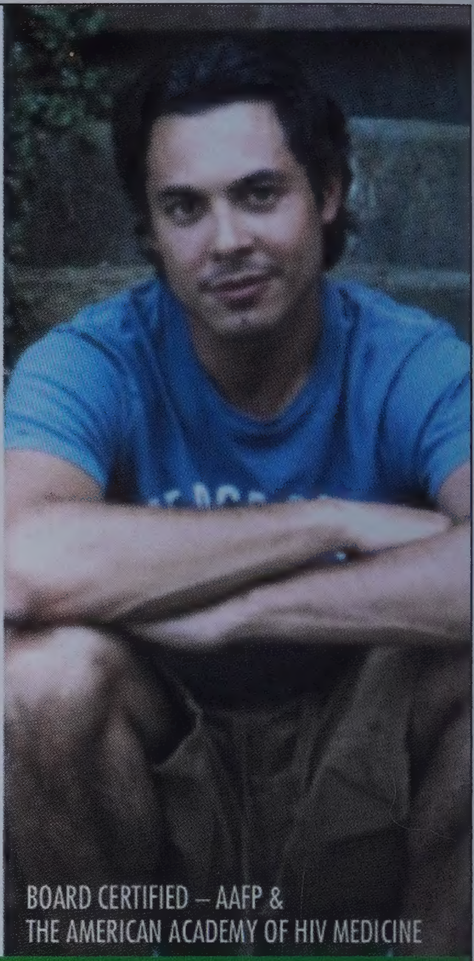

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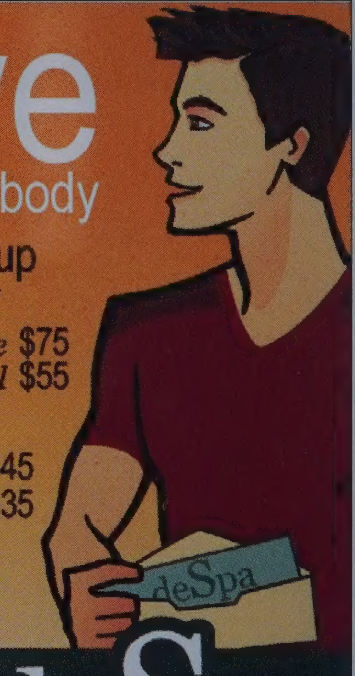

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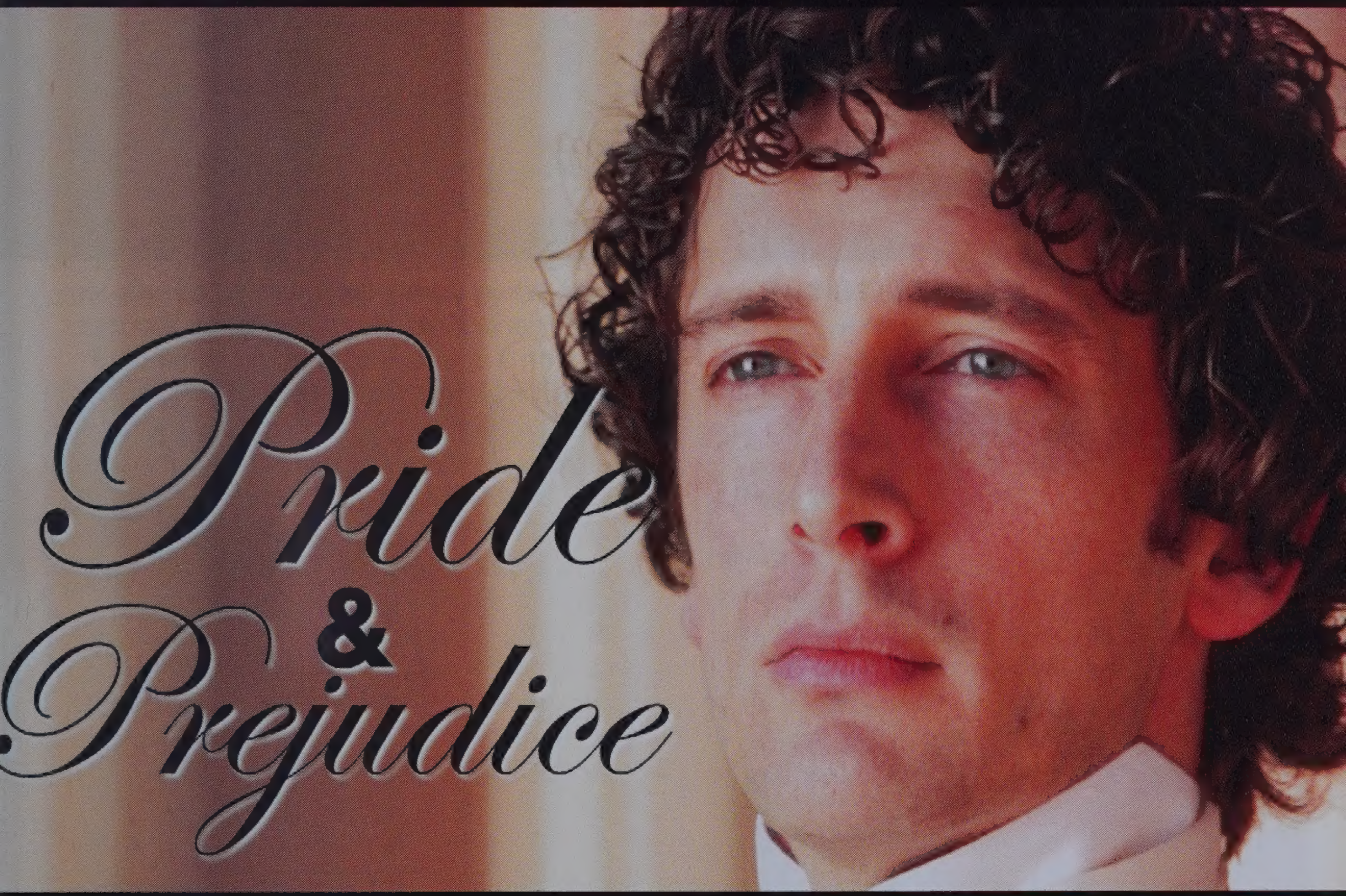

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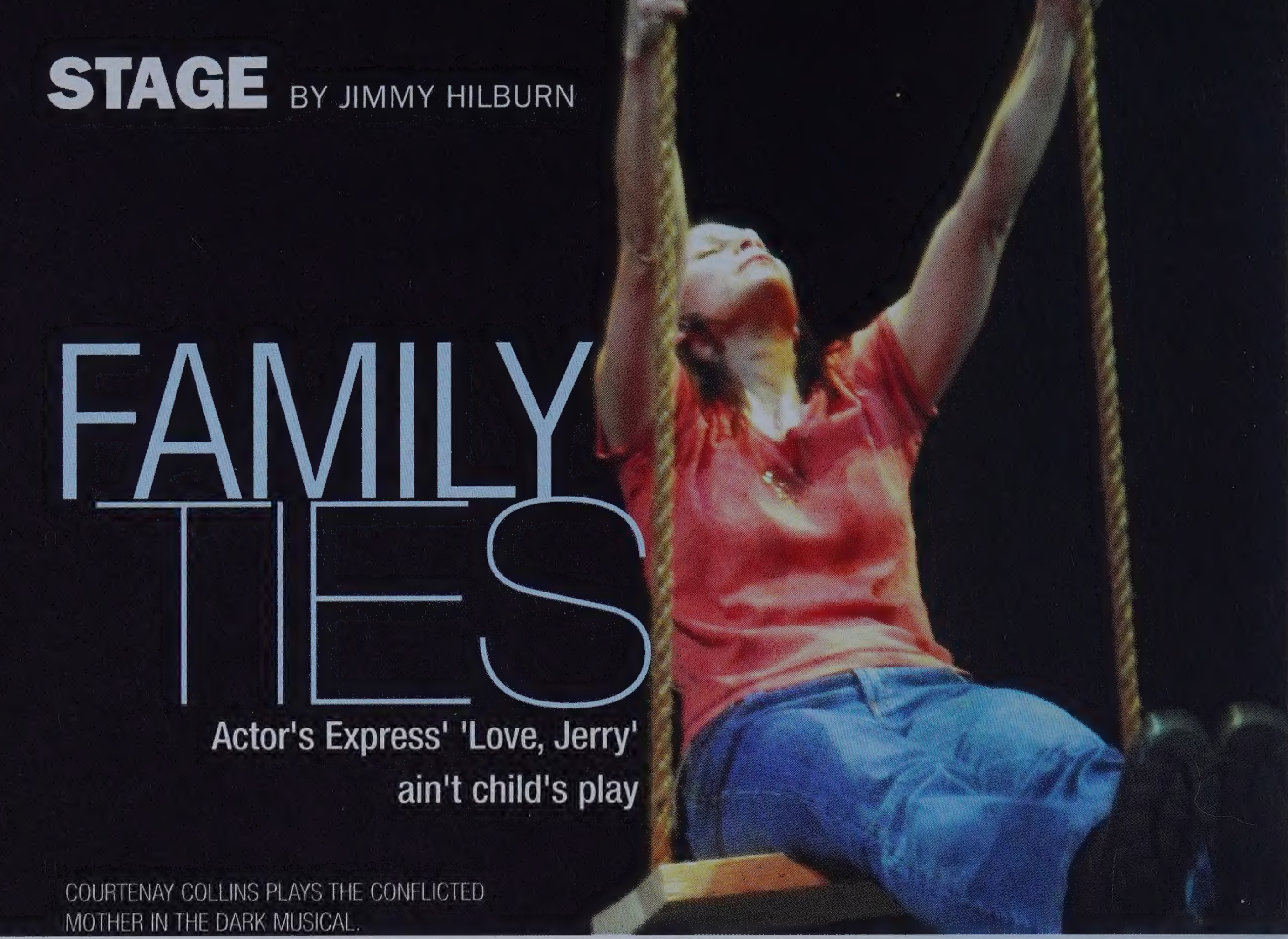

STAGE BY JIMMY HILBURN

FAMILY TIES

Actor's Express' 'Love, Jerry' ain't child's play

COURTENAY COLLINS PLAYS THE CONFLICTED MOTHER IN THE DARK MUSICAL.

WHEN THE E-MAILS STARTED COMING IN describing her theater company as a group of "perverts" and "child molesters," Actor's Express's managing director Kristin Hathaway-Hansen was understandably nervous. The troupe is no stranger to controversy. They previously produced shows on volatile topics like gays in the Holocaust, racism and even bestiality.

But its current production, "Love, Jerry," a world premiere musical by Megan Gogerty about a child molester, was a potential public relations nightmare.

"Love, Jerry" found its way to Atlanta in 2005 as a finalist for the Candida Graduate playwriting competition at the Alliance Theatre, when gay Alliance Associate Artistic Director Kent Gash took a special interest in the script.

"The first couple of pages I thought, 'Oh you've got to be kidding me - you can't do this,'" Gash says. "And then I kept reading and kept listening and was so compelled. I just felt this is magnificent writing."

Gash passed the script onto Actor's Express Artistic Director Jasson Minadakis, thinking this sort of envelope-pushing play might find a home at the Express. After the play landed on the 2005-06 rooster, Minadakis returned the favor by reaching out and asking Gash to direct.

"LOVE, JERRY" IS THE TALE OF two adult brothers - Mike and Jerry - whose relationship is tested as they grapple with a dark family secret. When Mike's family moves in with Jerry during financial troubles, they notice and must cope with a dramatic shift in the behavior of Mike's son, Andy.

Much of the confusion about the play's intentions stems from its billing as a musical, which the uninformed might assume is a flippant treatment of heavy subject matter.

"It's a little capricious for people to assume because it's a musical that it's automatically going to be superficial and frivolous and non-substantive," Gash says. "[Gogerty's] use of the music is very economical. It's not musical theater kinds of songs; it's more folk-based, more jazz-based. It's got a very organic kind of feeling. It's not flashy."

A recent article in Variety magazine about the production caught the attention of a right-wing family values watchdog group. The group's protest erupted in the form of an e-mail campaign to Actor's Express' sponsors including Airtran Airways, Turner Broadcasting, Georgia Council For the Arts and others, urging them to pull their funding from the theater company.

Hubbub about the show is unmerited, Gash says.

"I think the controversy is ill-informed," he says. "The piece in no way glorifies this behavior, this illness. The piece is so much more responsible than that. It's much more complicated than any of the people doing the complaining are giving it credit for. I'd love to know if they've read the piece."

TO FURTHER REASSURE THE PLAY'S social value, Actor's Express partnered with Prevent Child Abuse GA and Stop It Now Georgia! - two local service organizations that specialize in child abuse prevention. The groups put their stamp of approval on the script through support statements and letters of endorsement that largely squelched the fears of any skittish sponsors, according to Hathaway-Hansen.

"Every single one of the funders asked us the facts before they made any judgments," she says. "And every single one of the funders, as soon as they learned the facts, immediately withdrew their concern. I was thrilled with the way they supported us throughout."

The Express staff hopes "Love, Jerry" continues to inspire as much dialogue during the run of the show as it did beforehand. According to the National Institute of Health, one out of three girls and one out of six boys is sexually abused in their lifetime.

That high statistic suggests every audience might have members who have been affected by sexual abuse. For that and other sensitivity concerns, every performance will be followed by a post-show discussion with the cast.

DAVID SILVERMAN PLAYS A MAN ACCUSED OF MOLESTING HIS NEPHEW IN 'LOVE JERRY.'

Pedophilia is a touchy subject among gay people, because outsiders have been known to link it with homosexuality. "Love, Jerry" is sensitive to the reality that few child molesters are actually gay. The abuser in the musical is not gay, and the playwright goes out of her way to address the issue.

'Love, Jerry' runs Jan. 19 to Feb. 25 at Actor's Express Theatre Company, 887 W. Marietta St., Suite J-10, 404-607-7469, www.actors-express.com

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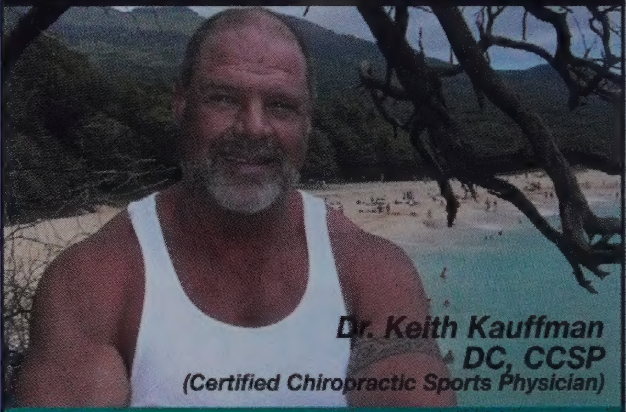

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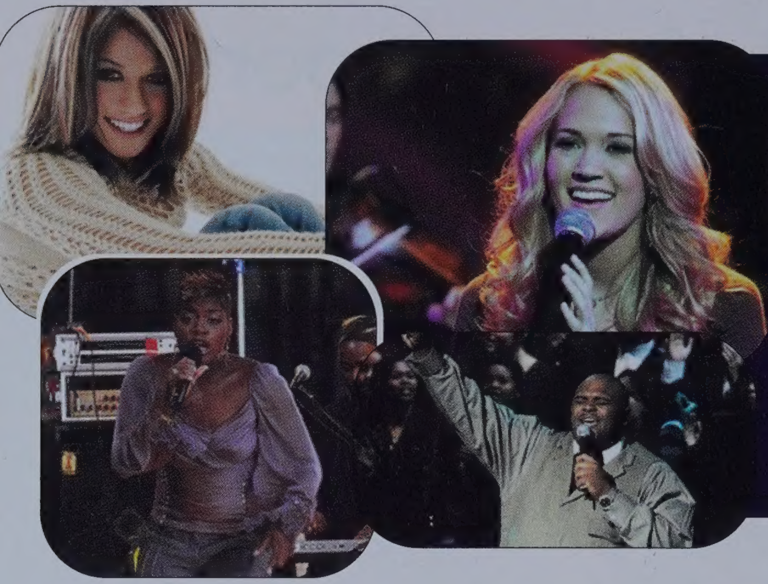

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CABARET, OLD CHUM

Onstage Atlanta presents the third week of its **Cabaret Nights** series, featuring a line up of talented vocalists that changes every week. *Jan. 27 - Jan. 28, and each weekend through Feb. 11, 8 p.m. at Onstage Atlanta, 2597 North Decatur Road, Decatur, 404-897-1802, www.onstageatlanta.com*

HOLLYWOOD GLAM

With '**Brokeback Mountain**,' '**Capote**' and '**Transamerica**' racking up trophies, the gayest awards season ever marches on.

The Screen Actors Guild Awards features more of the glam we eat and breathe. *Sunday, Jan. 29, 8 p.m. on TNT and TBS.* Two days later, we'll know who made the ultimate A-list when the **78th Academy Award nominations** are announced. *Tuesday, Jan. 31, 5:30 a.m. on PST*

HOT DATES

01.27-01.28 WETbar: The club soaks its patrons with DJ Jason Edwards' Friday night 'Splash'. DJ Mike Reeze (pictured) spins the 'Submerge' set on Saturday. *10 p.m. at WETbar, 960 Spring St., 404-745-9494, www.wetbaratlanta.com*

01.27 TRANSAMERICA: Golden Globe winner Felicity Huffman makes a re-scheduled — and double-rescheduled — return to the Atlanta screen in 'Transamerica.' *Landmark Midtown Art Cinema, 931 Monroe Drive, 678-495-1424, www.landmarktheatresatlanta.com*

01.28 THRIVE! Weekend: A free gathering of panels, support and workshops for people living with HIV. Pre-registration required. *AIDS Survival Project, 139 Ralph McGill Blvd., Suite 201, 404-874-7926, www.aidssurvivalproject.org*

01.28 MEGA FAMILY PROJECT: The MEGA Family Project hosts a citizen lobby training workshop on how to impact elected officials on gay issues. RSVP requested. *10 a.m. at YouthPride, 1017 Edgewood Ave., 404-521-9711, www.marriageequalityga.org*

02.02 DRAG IDOL II: A second season of the popular live, local, late-breaking series in which audience participation weeds out the divas until one struts her way into the cast of Charlie Brown's Cabaret, *50 Upper Alabama St., www.charliebrownscabaret.net*

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

THU 01.26

BLAKE'S. Video Grama with DJ George Greenlee, 9 p.m.

BURKHART'S. Kitty LeClaw's 'Meow Mix,' midnight.

CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret starring Charlie Brown and cast, 10 p.m.-until. Talent search sign-up 9-10:30 p.m. Open 9 p.m.-4 a.m.

EAGLE. "Blackout Thursday," 10 p.m.

FRIENDS ON PONCE. Happy hour, 5-9 p.m.

HALO. 'Boys Night Out' resident DJ Brandon Sutton. Check the DJ booth for occasional CD giveaways.

HERETIC. Rapture with DJ Rick Walsh 10 p.m., no cover.

HOEDOWNS. Ladies Night. Free dance lessons, 8 p.m.

JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia with Tom & Jim, 8-10 p.m.

LE BUZZ. "Bad Boyz, Bad Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.

MARY'S. Rotating weekly theme nights.

MY SISTERS' ROOM. Trivia with prizes, 9 p.m.

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RED CHAIR. "The Karaoke Contest," 10 p.m.

STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.

SWINGING RICHARDS. 2 for 1 at door & VIP rooms

TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.

WETBAR. College Night, hottest student bodies, no cover.

FRI 01.27

BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba and Jeffery, 7:30 p.m., DJ Rob Reum afterwards.

BURKHART'S. The Friday Show with Kitty LeClaw and Mary Edith Pitts,11:30.

CHAPARRAL. "Hot Papi" night, 10 p.m.-3 a.m. 18 to party, 21 to drink.

CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret. 10 p.m.-until. Open 9 p.m.-4 a.m.

CLUB MIAMI. ¡Caliente! Internacional with DJ Martin 10 p.m. Holiday Show, 12:30 a.m.

HERETIC. DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m.

JUNGLE. Come Out Dancing:7:30 p.m., live music :8:30 p.m. DV8 Goth Night, 10:30

THE LION'S DEN. "Hot Prey Friday's." Hip-Hop and R&B. 10 p.m.

LE BUZZ. Nicole Paige Brooks and Girlzz of LeBuzz talent competition, 11 p.m.

MARY'S. "Boys' Room" with Stewart, 9 p.m.

MODEL T. "Divas of Delusion" drag show. 11 pm.

OSCARS. Afternoon showtunes. "Martinis, Men & Music Videos," 9 p.m.

RED CHAIR. Tapas menu. Music videos. No cover.

STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.

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SWINGING RICHARDS. "2-4-1 T-Shirt Review."

WETbar. Splash with DJ Jason Edwards, no cover

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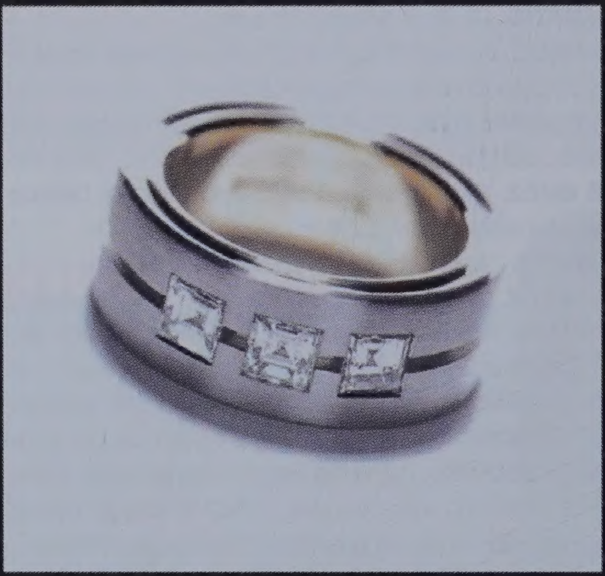

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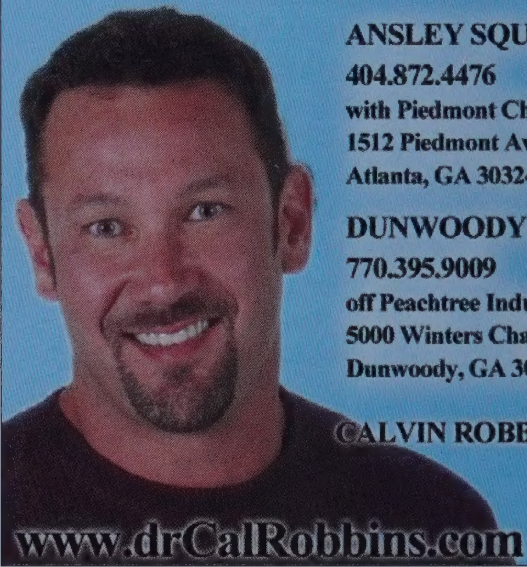

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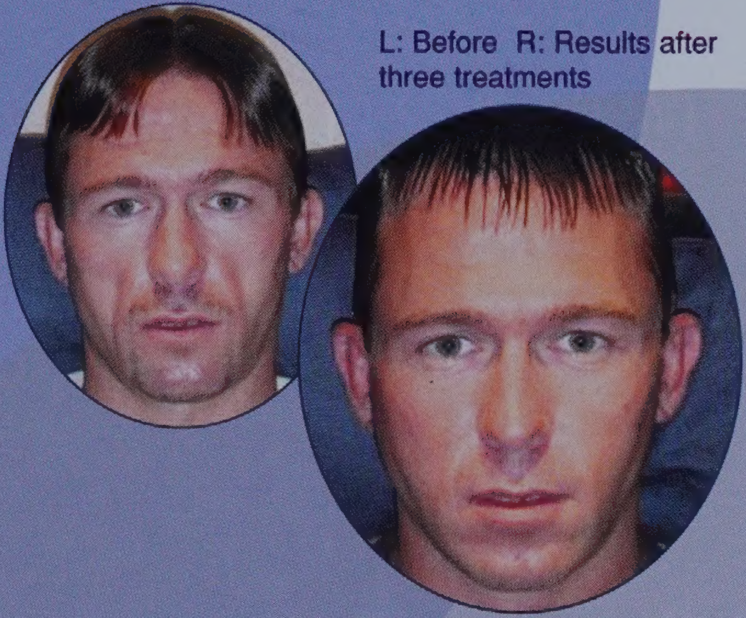

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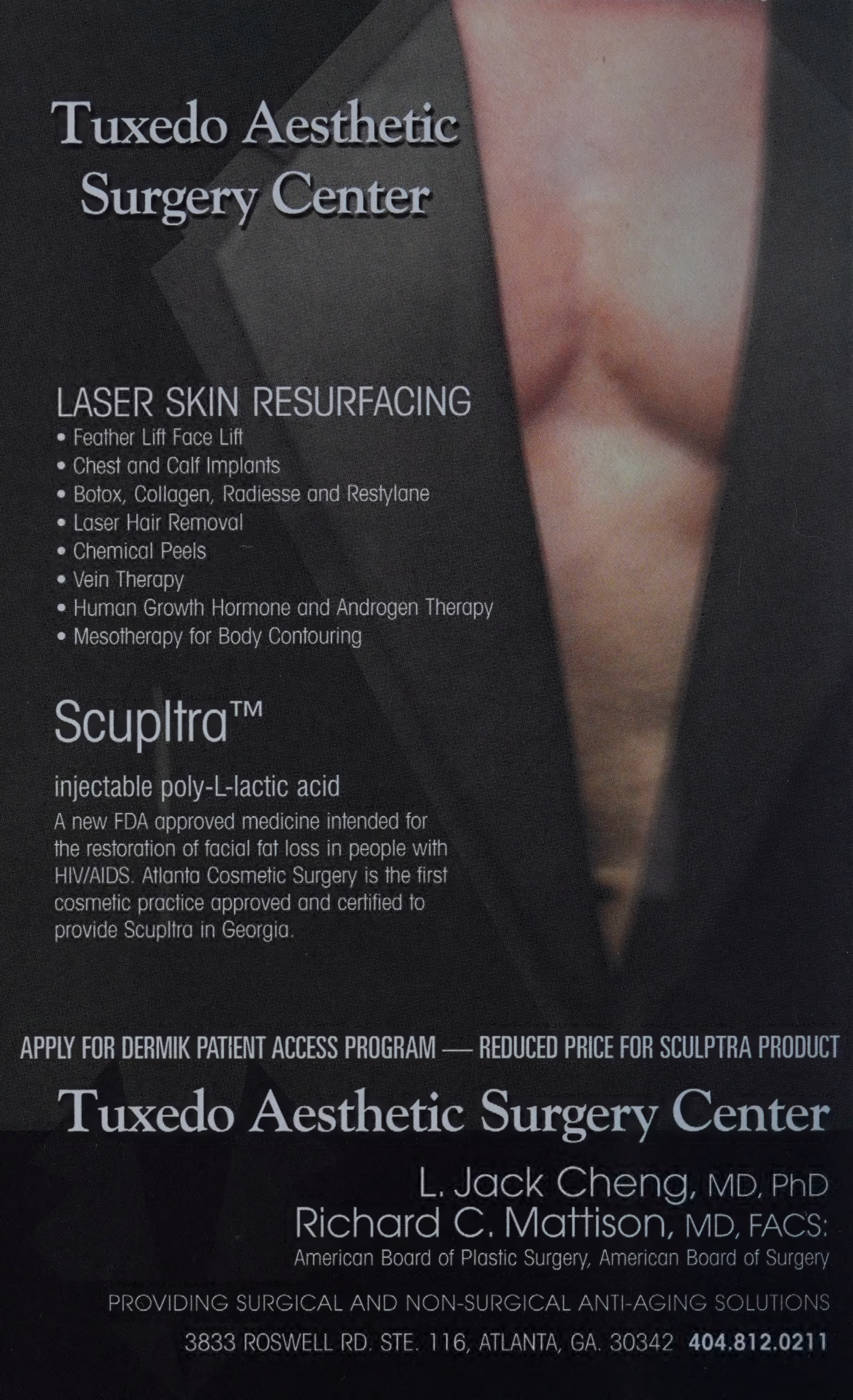

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SAT 01.28

ATLANTA LIVE. Hip hop night with Traxx.

BLAKES. "Let's Make a Diva Deal" 11 p.m.

BURKHART'S. 'Saturday Showcase' with Mary Edith Pitts and Kitty LeClaw, 11 p.m.

CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret . 10 p.m.-until. Open 9 p.m.-4 a.m.

HERETIC. DJ Brian Beck at 9 p.m.

JUNGLE. Weekly special guest DJs and performers, 10 p.m.

LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show hosted by Tequila Mockingbird, 11 p.m.

MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.

MODEL T. "Model Teez Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.

OSCARS. High energy videos w/VJ Das Wright, 9 p.m.

RED CHAIR. Girlz Night Out, female DJ

SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.

TRIPPS. 1st and 3rd Saturdays: Linda Michaels' "Showcase Showdown," 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m

WETBAR. Weekly Submerge party with guest DJ, $10 Cover

SUN 01.29

CLUB MIAMI. Sundays in Exile with resident DJ Martin and guests, 11 p.m.

BLAKE'S. "Big Time!" drag revue with Shabazz, Jealousé, Myah Monroe, and guests.

BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.

BURKHART'S. Armorettes show, 9 p.m., no cover.

CENTRAL PARK CLUB AND BISTRO. Male Exotic Dancers at Midnight K-Rock Productions Presents 'Freaks of the Industry' with hosts Busta Love and DJ Gee every first and third Sunday.

CHAPARRAL. Hip Hop night. Free entry. 10 p.m.-3 a.m.

CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret show, midnight. Pouring until 4 a.m. Monday. No cover

CLUB EUROPE. The Lion's Den Presents "Erotic Sunday's." Hip-Hp and R&B. 8 p.m. – 3 a.m.

MISS Q'S. Free Pool.

RED CHAIR. DJ Martin Fry, doors open Open at 9:00.

STAGE DOOR. T-dance 3-6 p.m., 1st and 3rd Sun.: The Tuckerettes, 2nd and 4th: The Stage Door Divas.

MON 01.30

BLAKE'S. "Princess and the Drag Races," 11 p.m.

BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Tyler, midnight.

EAGLE. Free pool and rock music.

FRIENDS ON PONCE. Free Pool, noon to close.

HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.

JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Jim & Baton Bob, 8-10 p.m.

JUNGLE. Salsa dance class, $5, 7-10 p.m. "Stars of the Century" w/Niesha Dupree, 11 p.m. $7 cover.

LeBUZZ. "Lady LeBuzz" drag kings and drag queens show hosted by Heather Daniels, 10 p.m.

MARY'S. "Jump Start" your weekend early with guest DJ's and video game showdowns.

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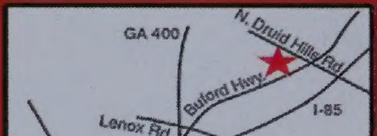

MISS Q'S. Free Pool.
NICKIEMOTO'S. "Dragamaki" w/Bubba D. Licious, 8:45 p.m.
OSCARS. Service industry night, 9 p.m.
WOOFS. Texas Hold-Em. No entry fee, prizes and more.

TUE 01.31

ATLANTA LIVE. Traxx's 'Thugged Out Tuesdays'
BJ'S ROOSTER'S. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Family" Feud w/Mary Edith Pitts, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
EAGLE. Free pool, rock music. Open 8 p.m.
GILBERT'S MEDITERRANEAN CAFE. "Navel" male belly dancing, 9:30 p.m.
HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Free beginner two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Tom & Jim, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke with Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
MY SISTERS' ROOM. "Bingo with prizes, 9 p.m.
OSCAR'S. Showtune Tuesdays
STAGE DOOR. Texas Hold 'Em, 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. $5 Cover at 8pm.
WETBAR. Noche Caliente & Mojado with the hottest Latin DJs, no cover

WED 02.01

BLAKE'S. "Brain Freeze" trivia w/Ruby Redd, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CHERRY. Drag show and dinner with complimentary wine
FELIX'S. Jackpot Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Wacky Wednesday Game Night. Win prizes with Dan & Louis. 8 p.m.
HERETIC. Boys Night Out Dress Code Party with DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m., no cover
HOEDOWNS. Free cha-cha dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JUNGLE. Southern line dancing, 7-9 p.m.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Video request night.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
MODEL T. Movie night, midnight.
OSCARS. Comedy night w/DJ Ken B, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Dinner & A Movie.
STAGE DOOR. Trivia, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
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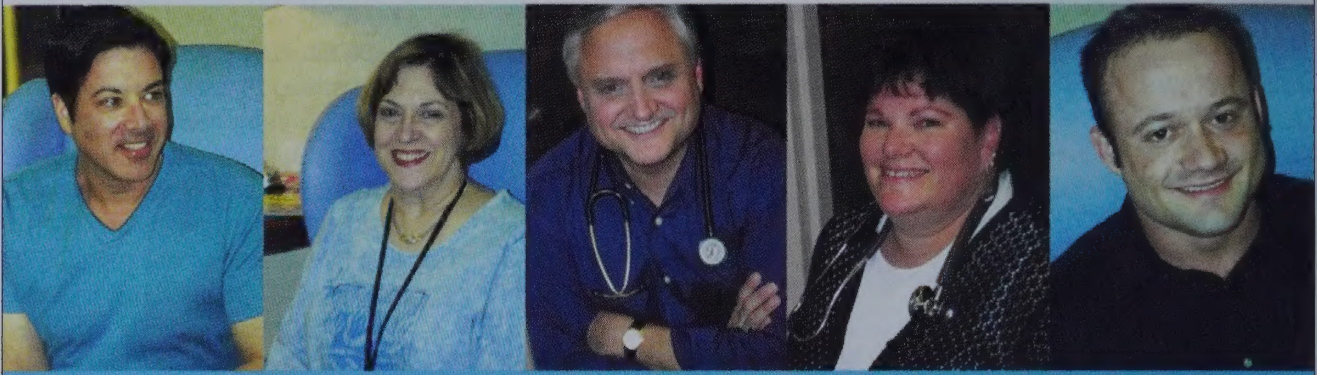

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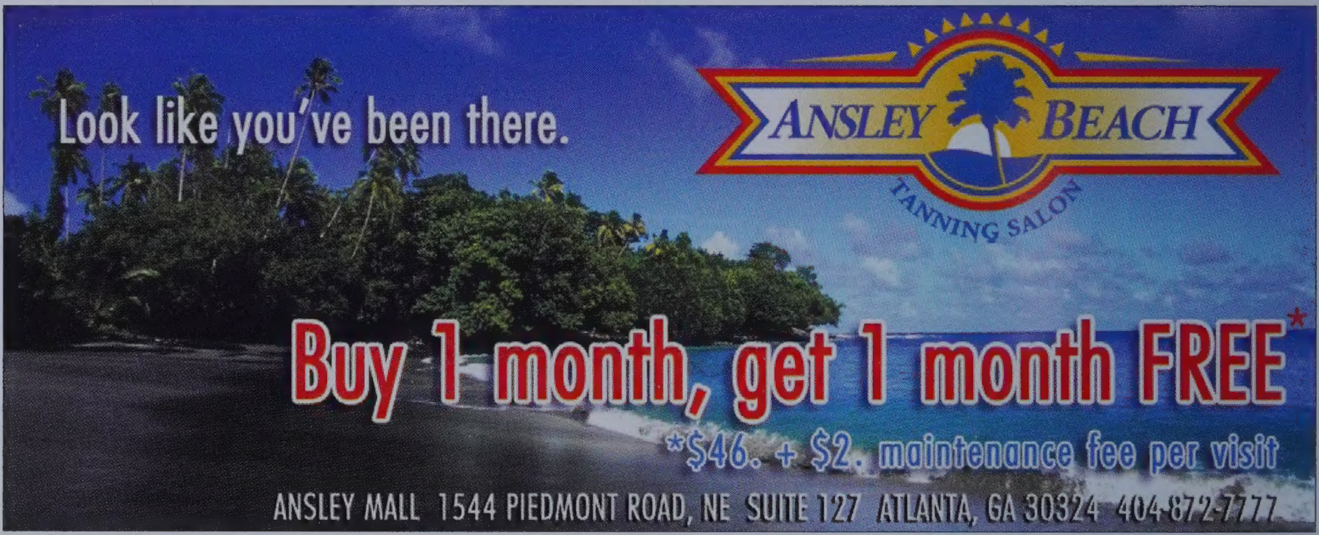

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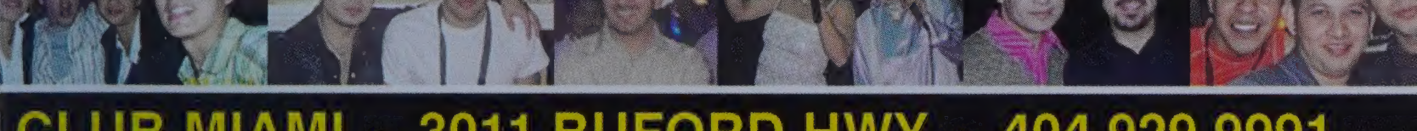

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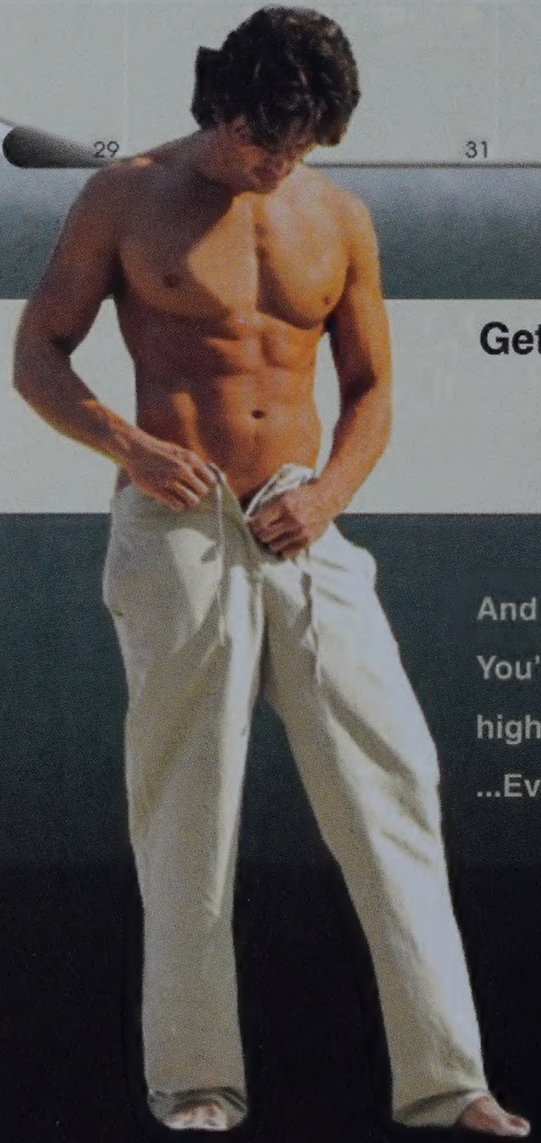

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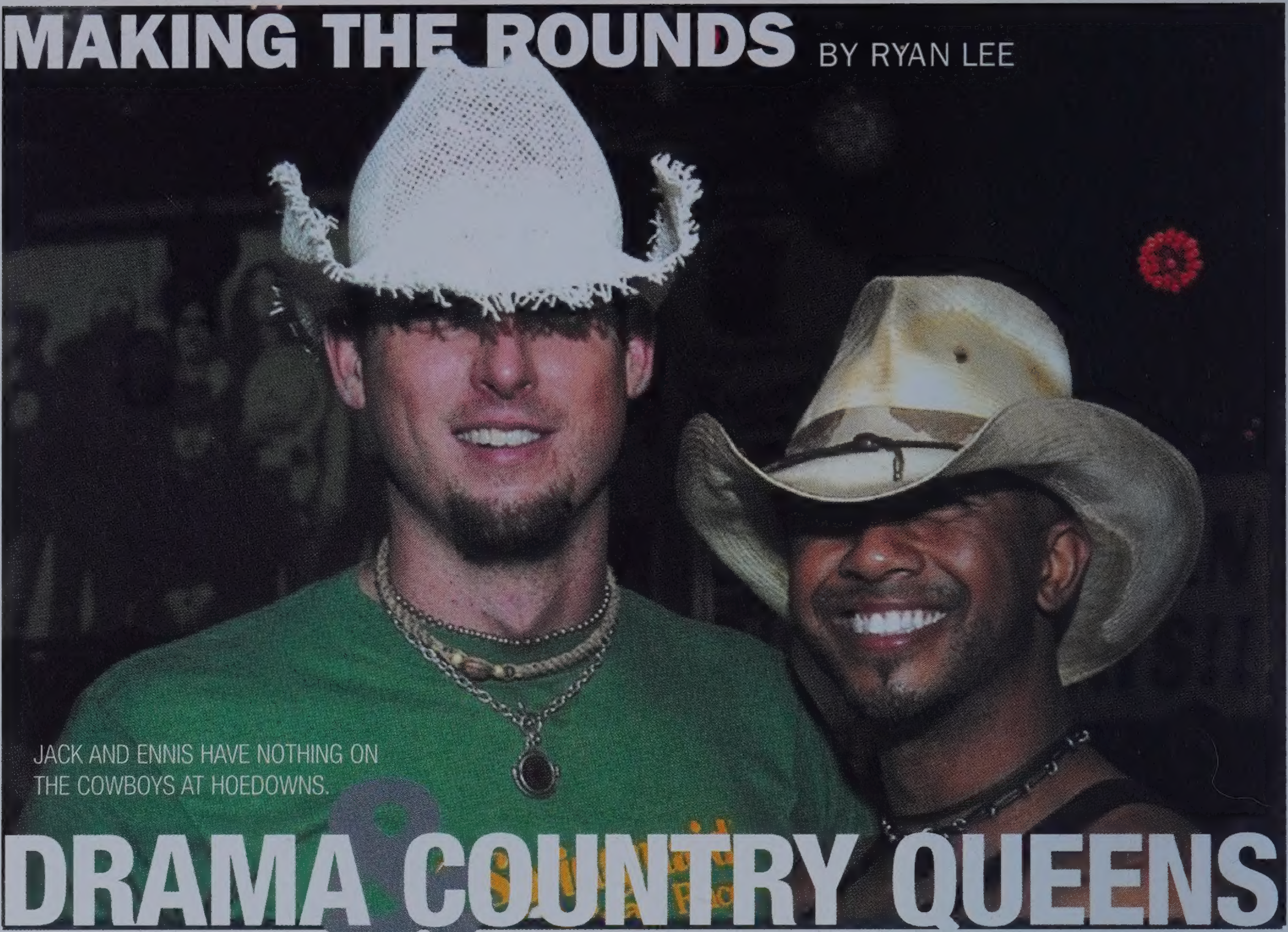

JACK AND ENNIS HAVE NOTHING ON THE COWBOYS AT HOEDOWNS.

DRAMA & COUNTRY QUEENS

Red Chair saves Unity Ball and Cha Cha-ing at Hoedowns, y'all

GOODNESS, GRACIOUS! WE HAVE SEEN THE mountain top!

It recently felt like we were at the 1963 March on Washington, awaiting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to give his "I Have A Dream" speech. We're sure you're familiar with footage showing the breathtaking expanse of people overflowing the National Mall as they listened to King's words.

Well, the scene at **Atlanta Live** on MLK's birthday weekend bore a striking resemblance to that historic event when acres of people turned out for Traxx's "Roots" party. We're talking an ever-flowing fountain of beautiful men — wall-to-wall inside the club, and at least three long lines of folks outside praying to get in.

The holiday weekend itself would've been enough to draw considerable crowds, including lots of out-of-towners who flock to Atlanta for one of the biggest party weekends of the year. But as always, **Homer** and the rest of the folks at **Traxx** had something extra for the boys.

Midway through the night, several of the characters from **Logo**'s black gay series "**Noah's Arc**" — including "Noah" himself **Darryl Stephens** — took the stage to show the oversized crowd some love. Joining series creator and producer **Patrick-Ian Polk** were beefcake **Gregory Keith**, who plays "Trey," and his onscreen boyfriend "Alex," played by **Rodney Chester**.

Homer tells us Traxx is working on some even bigger projects for the early months of 2006. With an ability to draw crowds like the one at "Roots," he might want to look into running for office.

THE DRAMA THAT SOMETIMES FLARES UP ON "Noah's Arc" has nothing on the first ever **MLK Unity Ball**, produced by the Atlanta Alliance and **Father Clint Cavalli**, patriarch of the **House of Cavalli**.

In case you're not familiar with a drag ball, it's where different black gay social groups, called "houses," compete in a plethora of runway, voguing and fashion categories, seeing who can be the most butch or femme (I know my editor is going to gag if I don't mention "Paris is Burning," for clarity's sake. So there.)

Anyway, the MLK Unity Ball was billed as Atlanta's first free ball and was supposed to take place at the Rialto Theater. Four hours after the scheduled start time, the ball kicked off to a capacity crowd at **Red Chair**, which saved the day after the original venue fell through.

Clint took informed the crowd that the Rialto wanted to renegotiate the insurance payments when they found out it was a black gay event, then added that in an attempt to sabotage the event, someone called in a bomb threat to Red Chair.

A bomb threat! Girls, please! Is it really that serious?

It's a good thing people didn't flee in panic because once the action started, the place got fierce. There were waayy too many categories to give props to all the winners, but one of our favorite parts was definitely **Jay Rodeo**'s ovah performance.

THE BOYS FROM 'NOAH'S ARC' VISITED TRAXX ON MLK WEEKEND.

IF YOU'RE FROM A SMALL TOWN IN GEORGIA (or even a "big" town in places like Alabama and Mississippi) and you're itchin' for a taste of life back on the farm, **Hoedowns** in the Midtown Promenade is there for you.

Atlanta's only gay country bar is packed every weekend with urban ranch hands and sexy rodeo cowboys gazing around for their next bull to ride. So if "Brokeback Mountain" has you wanting to lasso your own Jack or Ennis, get your finest square-dancing attire pressed and get your tail over to Hoedowns.

The Making the Rounds Boys ain't got the surest-of-feet out on a country music dance floor, so if you're anything like us, take advantage of the free dance lessons Hoedowns offers each week. When the place gets jumping on weekend nights, there's nothing worse than being stuck on the sideline because you can't dosey-doe like the other cute couples or join the lineup during line dances.

Regular dance instructor **Troy Inman** was taking a couple of days off when we recently went to Hoedown's, but substitute instructor **Toni Ralston** made all of the newbies feel comfortable as we tried to master the Cha Cha. Tony and her dance partner Zoë Lancaster looked like they belonged on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars." Some of the rest of us were seeing stars due to all of the dizzying turns.

Whew, we haven't felt so tipsy since — oh, hush up!

***Traxx @ Atlanta** Live is located at 3595 Clairmont Road, 404-477-0707, www.traxxatlanta.com*

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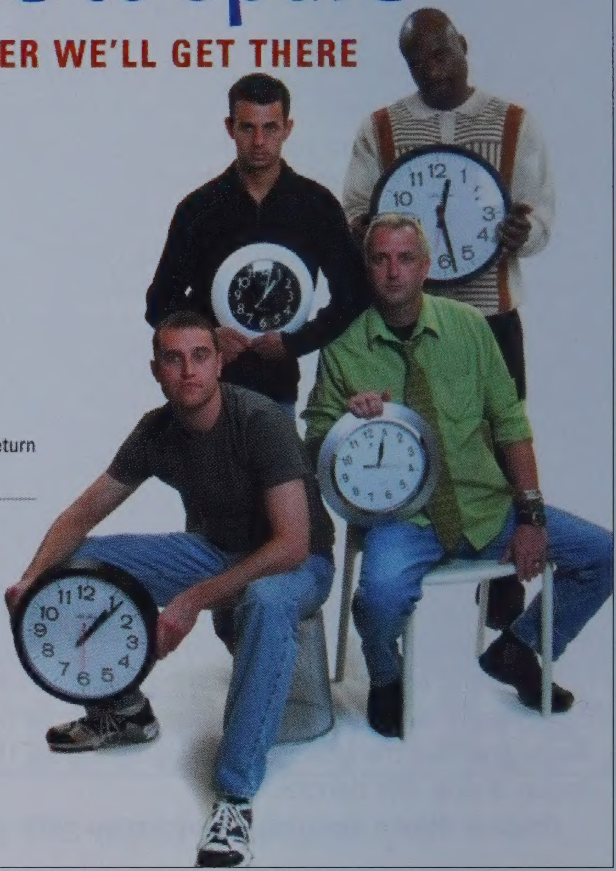

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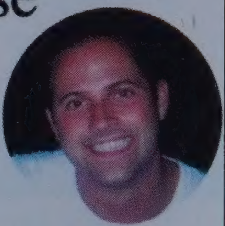

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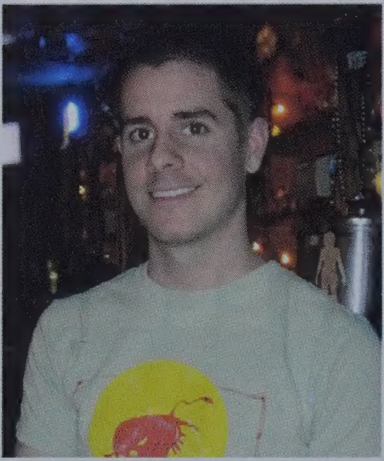

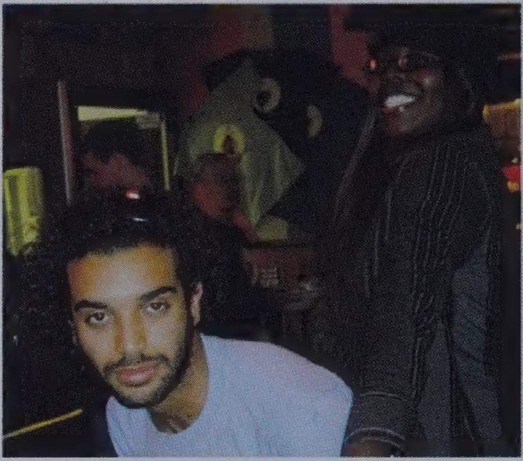

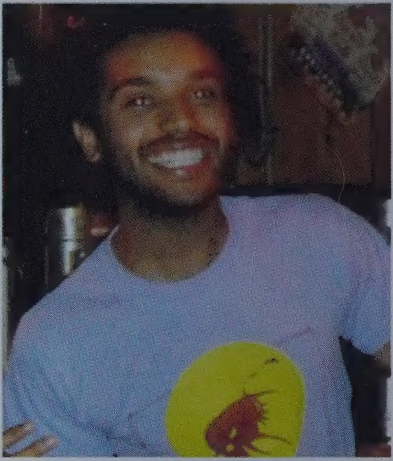

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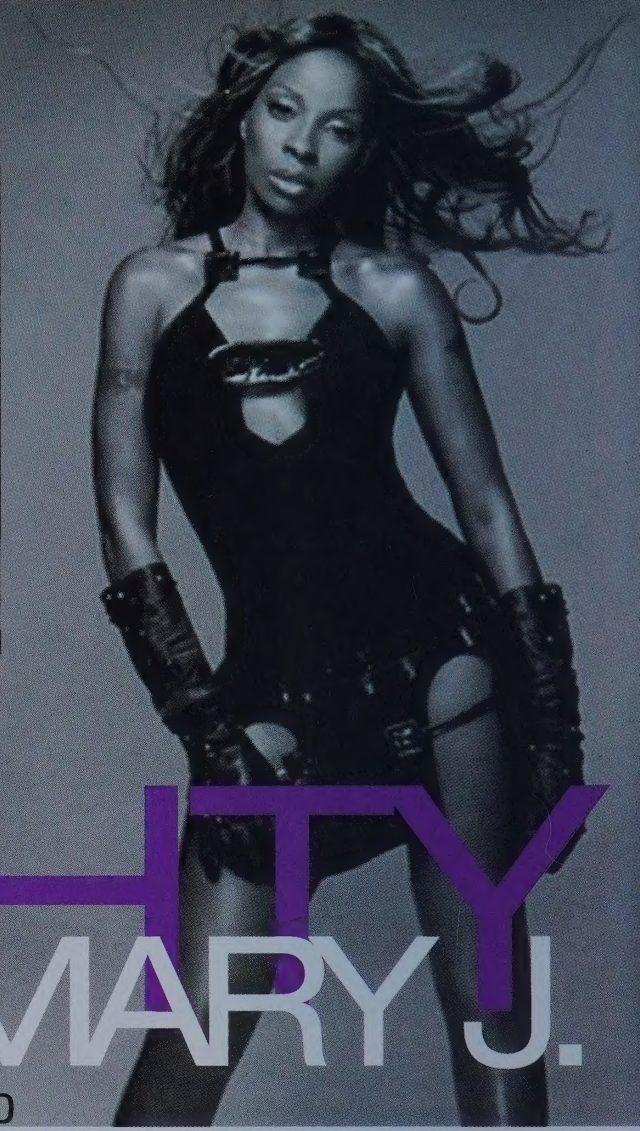


MIGHTY MARY J.

Hip-hop diva brings her **A-game** to latest CD

AFTER TWO YEARS AWAY FROM THE SPOTLIGHT, Mary J. Blige returns with a bang on her new album, "The Breakthrough."

The album reaffirms Blige's dominance on the musical landscape and solidifies her status as the queen of hip-hop and R&B. "The Breakthrough" contains 17 tracks, including a hidden track, "Show Love."

The first single, "Be Without You," is a love song with real soul. It's a catchy song and an excellent choice as the lead single. Since its release just a couple weeks ago, fans are already singing the chorus and yearning for more.

Of course, Blige knows how to generate money, and the import single features the Moto Blanco Vocal Remix, which is uplifting with a classic house sound that is filling dance floors.

A likely follow-up single is "Gonna Breakthrough," featuring Brook. The track is infectious with catchy lyrics and a bouncing retro sample. The song begins with Blige's tender vocals over mellow keyboards, but then the dance hook kicks in, and all you can do is hang on for the ride.

ANOTHER STANDOUT HIT IS THE CD'S FIRST track, "No One Will Do," a love song with a sample of "I Swear I Love No One But You" by the O'Jays, and Blige belting her devotion to her man.

"MJB Da MVP" is a tour through Blige's steller career, saluting her fans, the media and others who ade her career possible. Rapper 50 Cent flows alongside the vocals, as Blige gives a nod to some of her earlier work like "Real Love," "Reminisce" and "You Remind Me" from her debut album, "What's the 411?"

The CD concludes with an excellent cover of U2's "One." Bono and the boys join Blige for one of the most electrifying musical collaborations in recent memory, and Blige makes the lyrics soar above the familiar guitars, drums and percussion. With the reigning queen of hip-hop on the same track as one of the princes of pop rock, Blige and Bono blend their signature vocals, and the results are magic.

BLIGE BURST ONTO THE MUSIC SCENE IN 1992 with the release of "What's the 411?," as hits like the aforementioned "Real Love" played ubiquitously on the radio airwaves.

"The Breakthrough" is Blige's first album since 2003's "Love & Life," an inconsistent and somewhat disappointing effort after the commercial and critical success of 2001's "No More Drama."

"No More Drama" spawned several smash hit singles (including the title track and "Family Affair"), earning Blige a Grammy and adding a few new words to the gay vernacular, like "hateration" and "holleration."

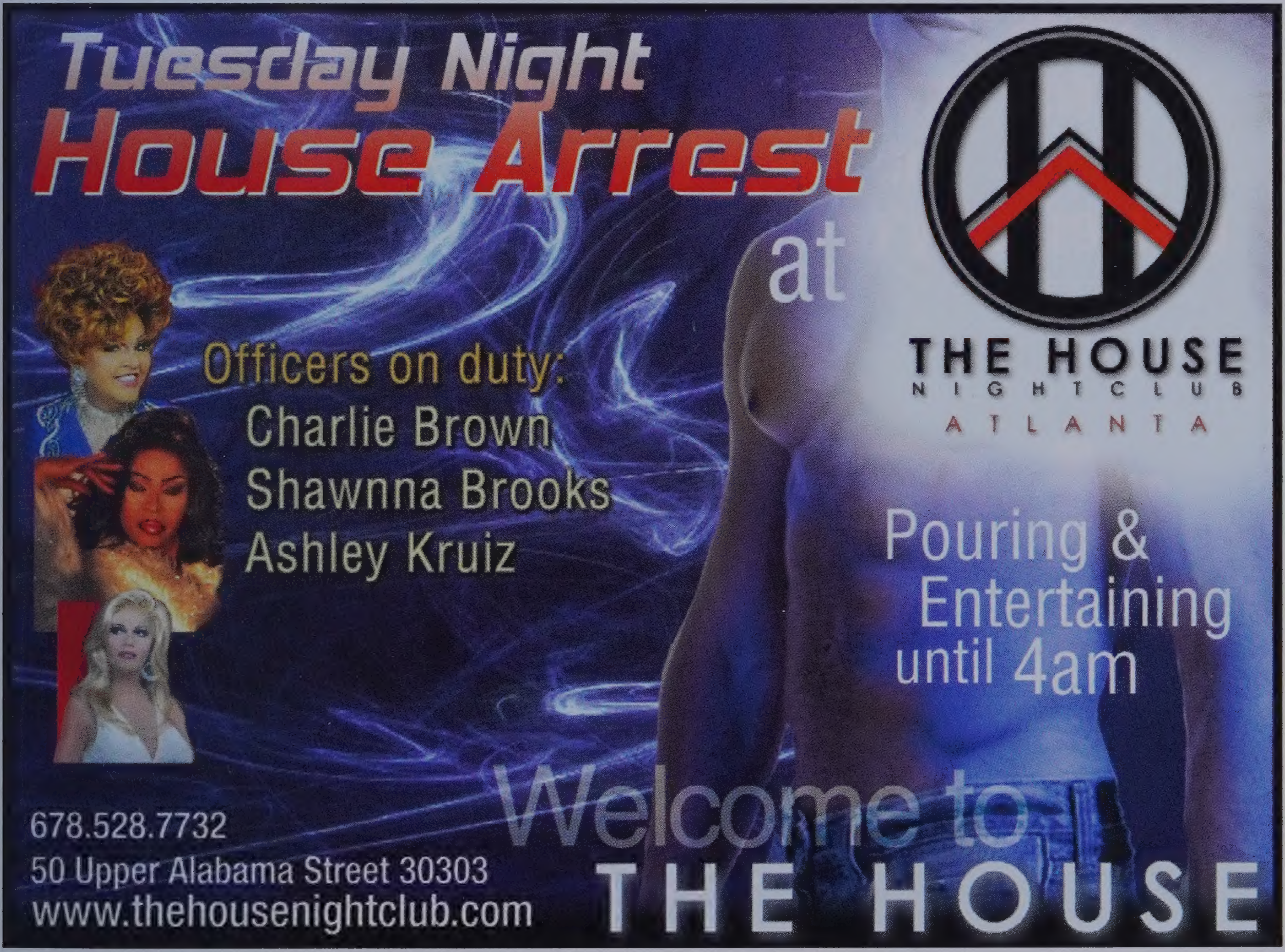
And gay fans are no stranger to Blige's prowess for getting people onto a dance floor. For once, a record company made the right decision and released "Dance for Me" in 2002, a collection of some of Blige's biggest hits remixed for club play. Blige was remixed by every big name gay DJ-producer from Junior Vasqeuz to Thunderpuss to Hex Hector, and this collection showed she loves her gay fans.

So we all know Mary J has one of the biggest voices in the business today. The woman can wail, scream and emote like nobody's business, but she never screeches or stretches her voice too far. She is a true treasure, and "The Breakthrough" is an excellent example of her artistry.

With strong ballads, up-tempo tracks and other guests like will.i.am, Jay-Z and Raphael Saadiq, this is an essential album for fans of hip-hop and R&B.

The duet with U2 is worth the price of the entire album, so treat your ears by starting 2006 off on the right note.

'The Breakthrough' is available from Geffen Records, www.mjblige.com



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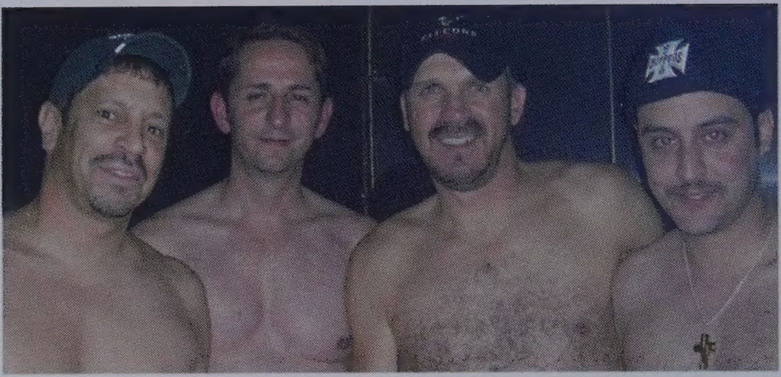

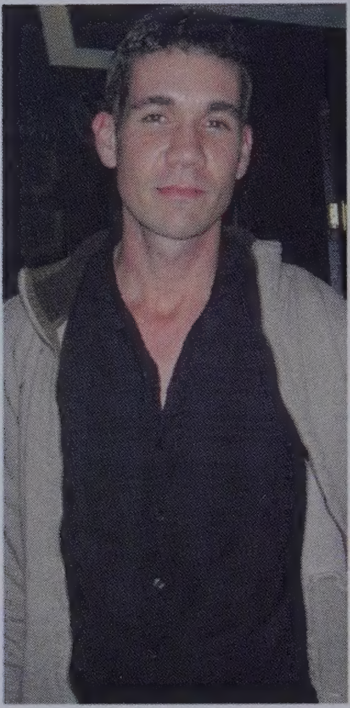

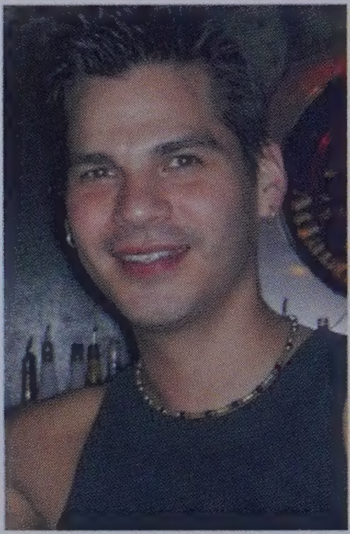

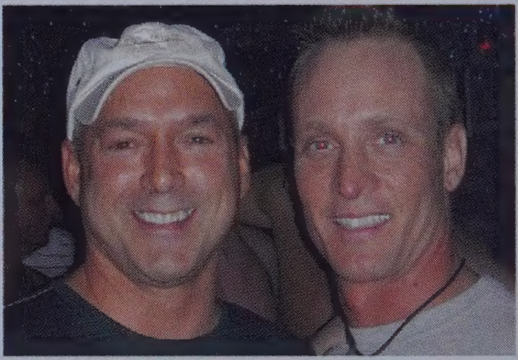

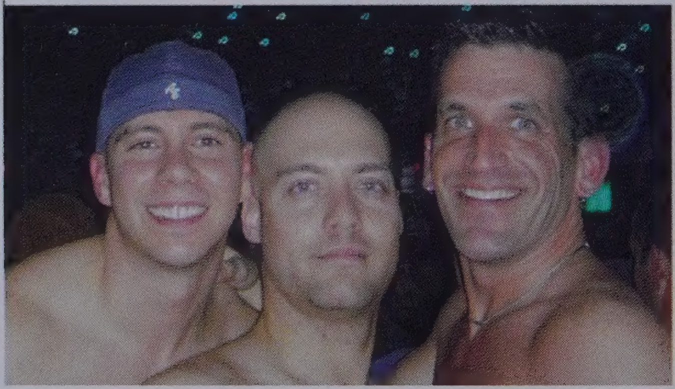

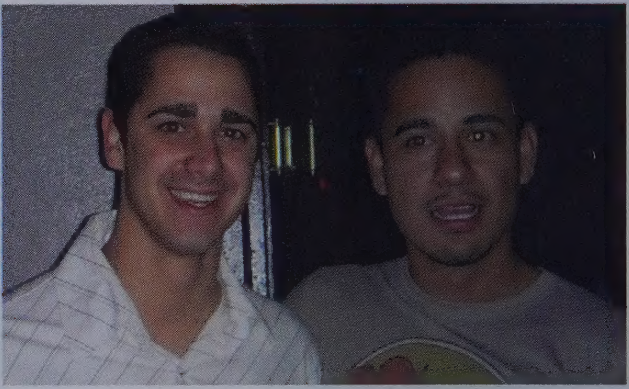

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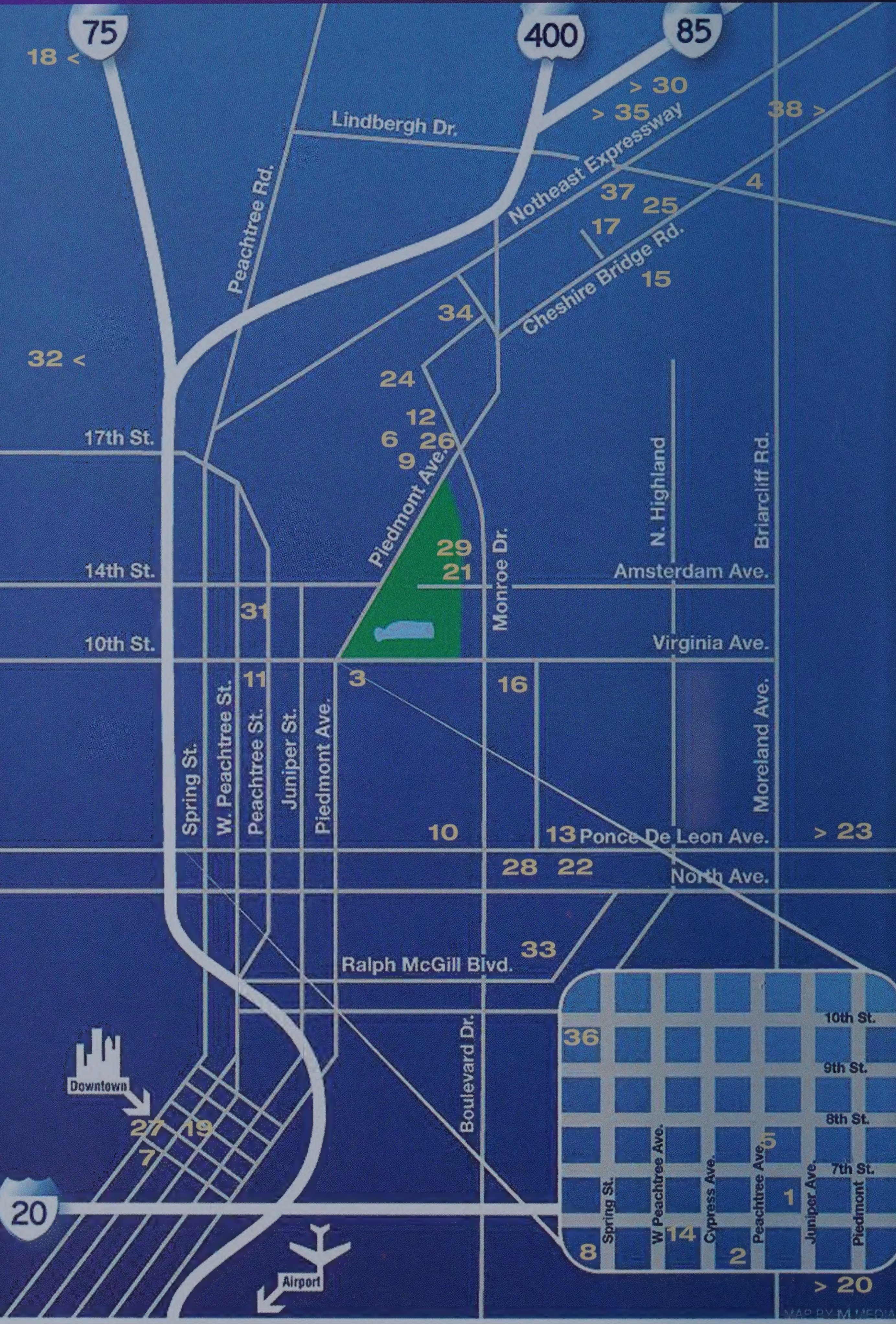
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Piedmont
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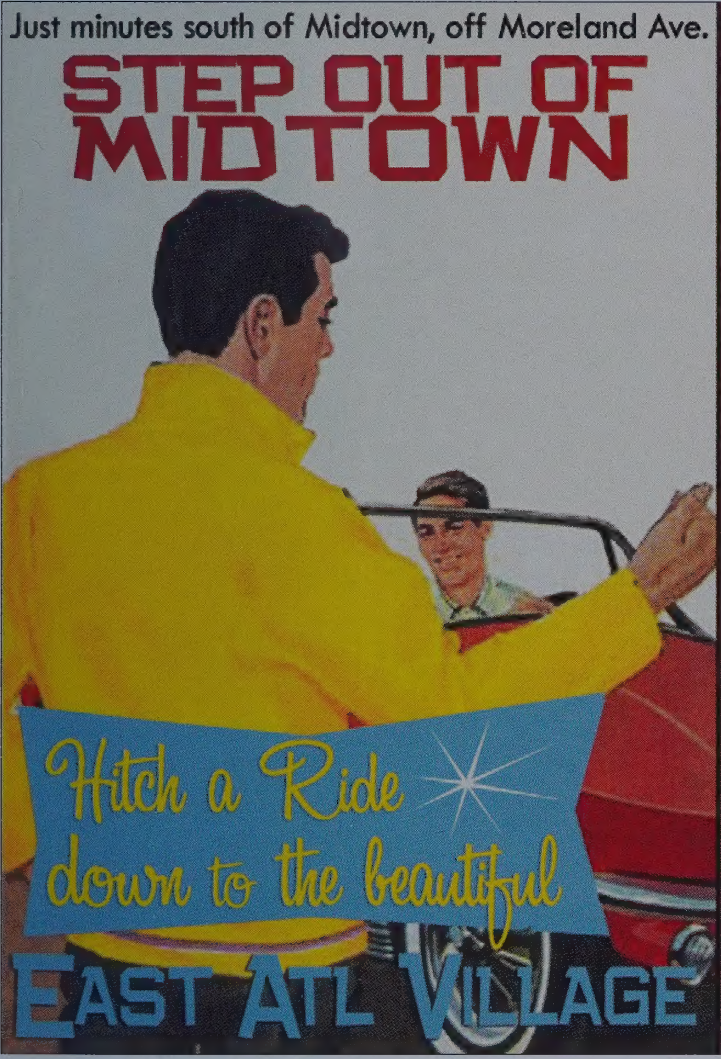
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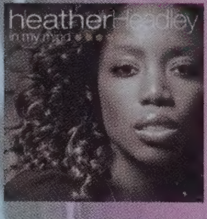

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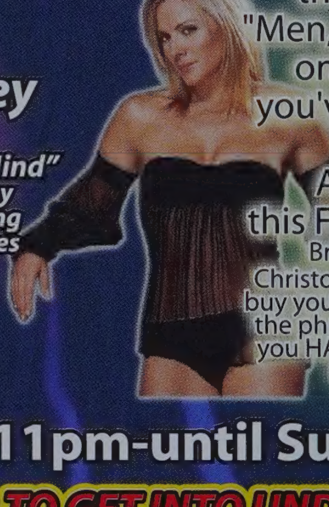

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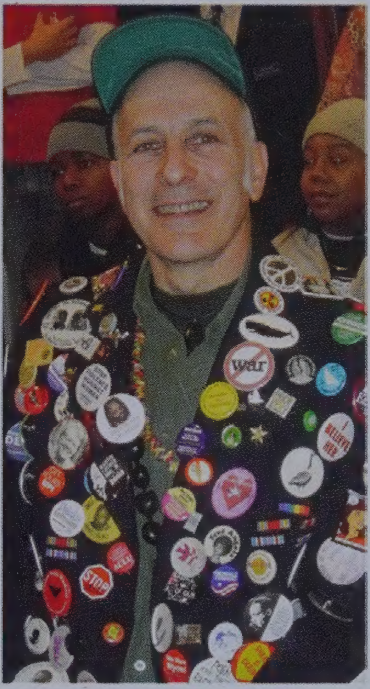

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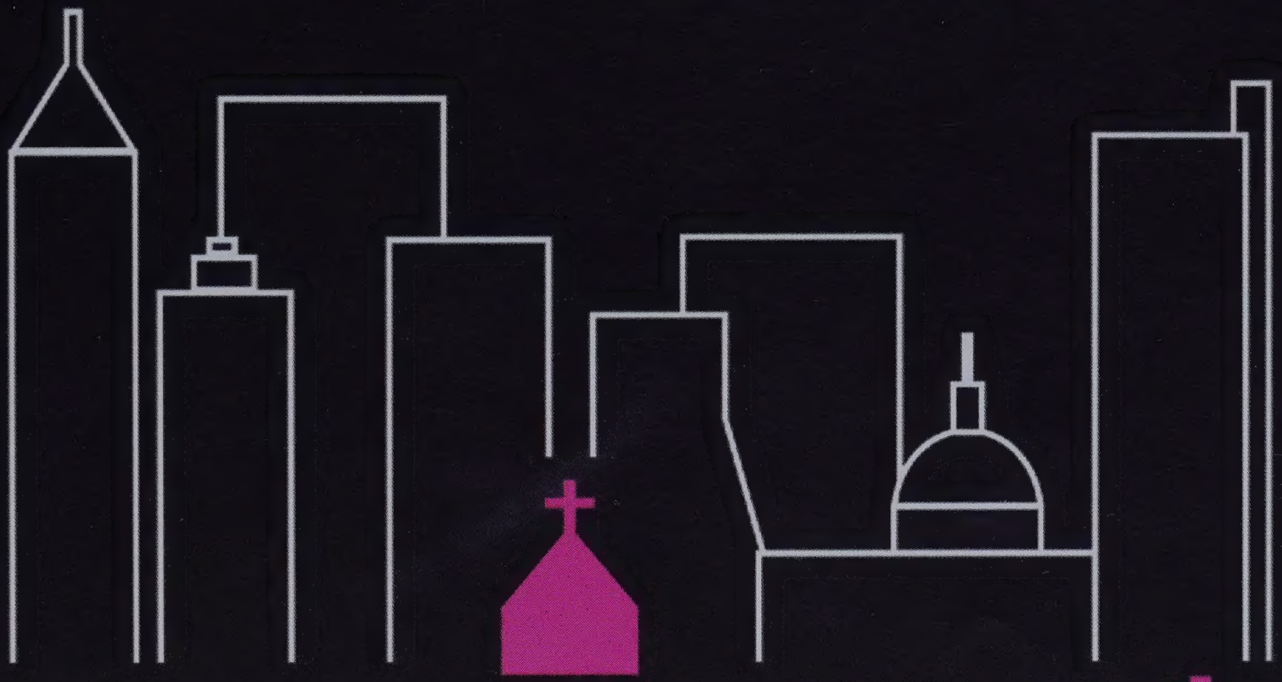

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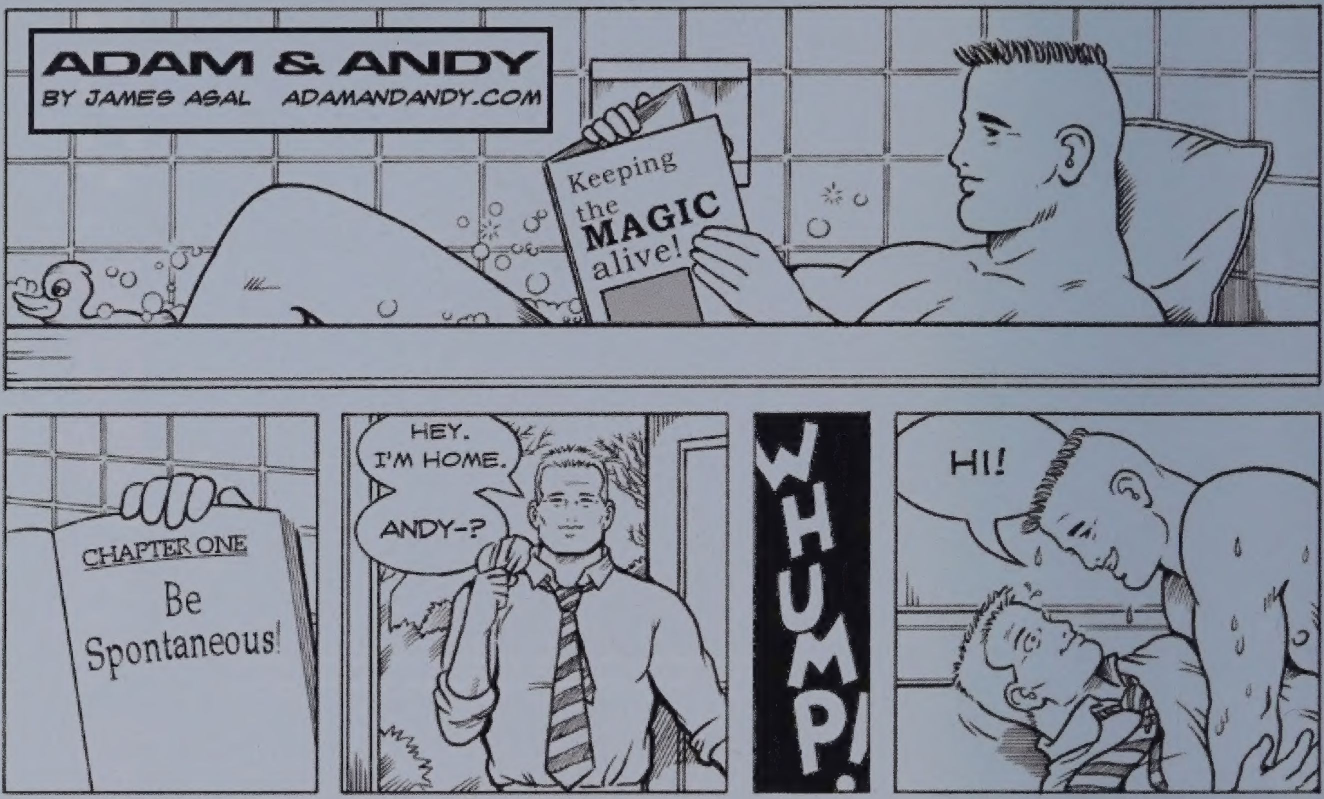
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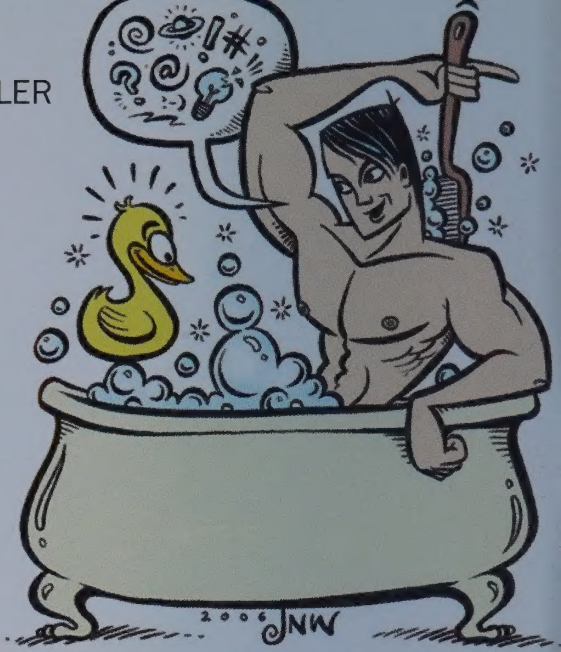
Washing out your mouth - and **crotch** - with soap



HEY WOODY!

I love giving head to my boyfriend, but he's one of those guys that should have been born straight. His room's a mess, he'll go a day or two without showering, and he thinks being clean means not using drugs.

The thing is, he's got the most beautiful dick I've ever seen, and I'm obsessed with having it in my mouth. But the smell repulses me.

Am I being unreasonable? Or am I just spoiling the spontaneity by insisting that he shower first?

- GAGGING FOR THE WRONG REASON

DEAR GAGGING:

Most men would crawl through cut glass to get more oral sex, and yours won't even reach for a bar of soap? Something's not right.

One possibility is that he simply doesn't enjoy oral sex enough to keep clean. An uglier possibility is that you're simply not very good at going down!

Now, I doubt that because guys who like it tend to be good at it. Still, I'd check. Put it to him simply and directly:

"I love going down on you, and I want to be better at it. Is there anything you want me to do that I'm not doing?"

For the record, I think he's being unfair to you. There's something to be said for male "ripeness," but most guys don't want to go down on a man they can smell before they can see.

Cleanliness is a small price to pay for a great roll in the hay. If he's simply a slob, there are a few things you can do to keep Mr. Stink Bomb from blowing up your sex life:

Pour the powder. Baby powder around the crotch helps soak up the moisture and sweat that causes bad odor.

Make friends with the nozzle. When you feel a sudden urge to merge, guide him to the shower and have your way with him.

Buy him new underwear. Clothing manufacturers make fabrics that draw perspiration away from the skin to the surface of the underwear, where it evaporates.

HEY WOODY!

My boyfriend wants me to talk dirty to him during sex. I don't know what to say, I feel stupid, and I keep laughing.

What can I say, and how can I keep a straight face?

- GIGGLY

DEAR GIGGLY:

Talking dirty adds another dimension to the sexual experience. Sex engages four out the five senses: taste, touch, sight and smell). But unless you talk, you leave out the fifth sense: hearing.

Adding wordplay to foreplay helps your sex life fire on all five cylinders.

The first rule of spicing things up with Tabasco Talk is to forget the flowery prose. Any word with more than two syllables is a word with too many syllables. Start by simply narrating the action. Describe what you're doing and feeling. Once you get used to talking in bed, the trashy talk comes naturally.

Try an Erotic Appreciation Exercise. Simply notice something about his body that you like and say something about it. Then say something about his style of lovemaking. Like, "I love the way your kisses automatically make my nipples stiff."

It's simple, really. All you're doing is putting your thoughts on an external speaker.

If you're still feeling a little funny, then do what you do when you eat a great dessert: Moan & Groan. Not many syllables, but animal sounds can speak a thousand dirty words.

Woody is the author of 'Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon.' He can be reached at needwood@mac.com.

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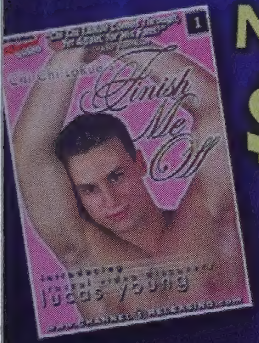

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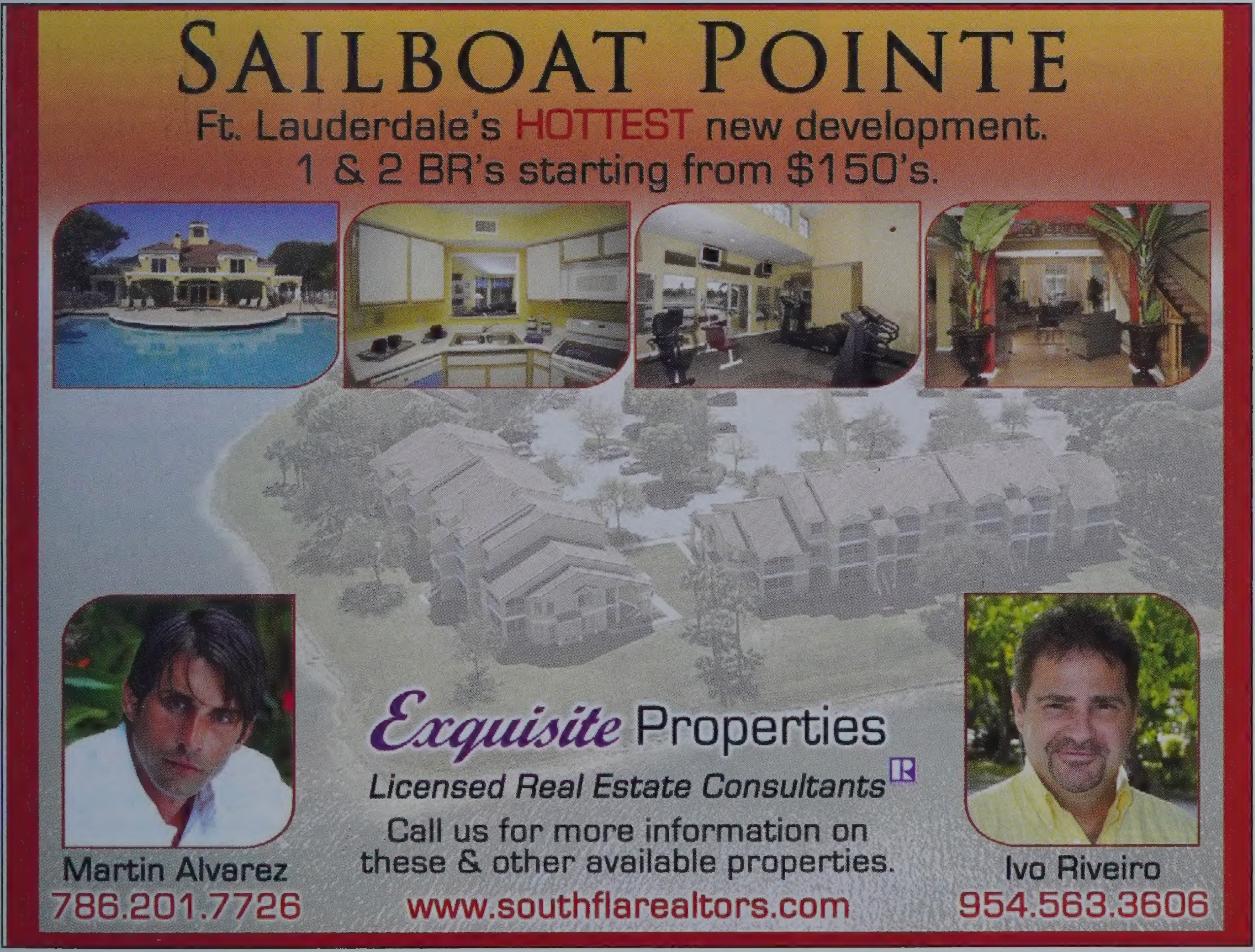

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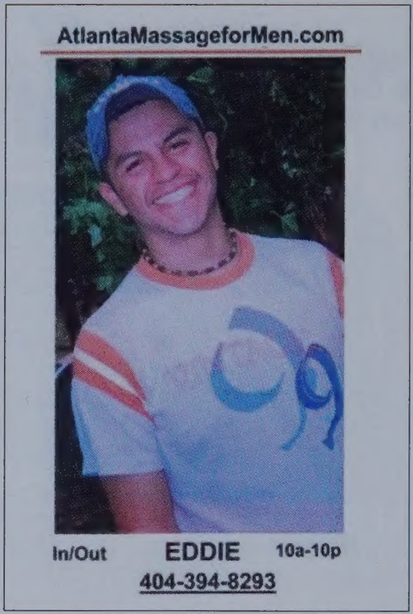
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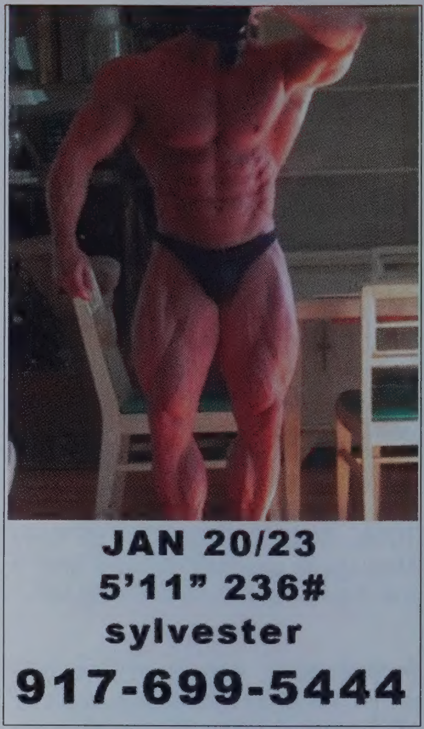
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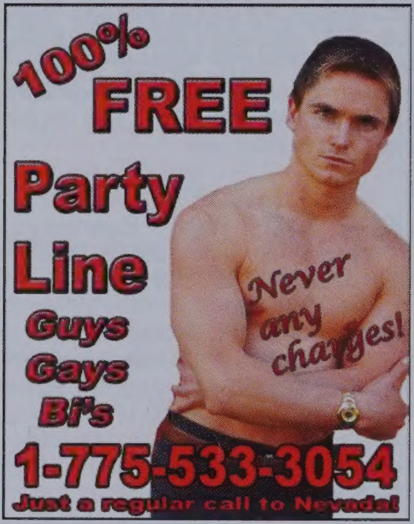
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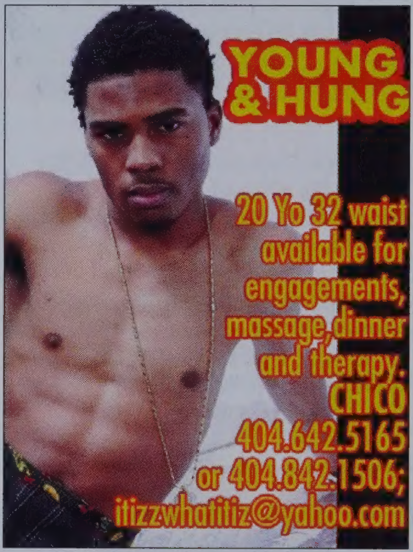
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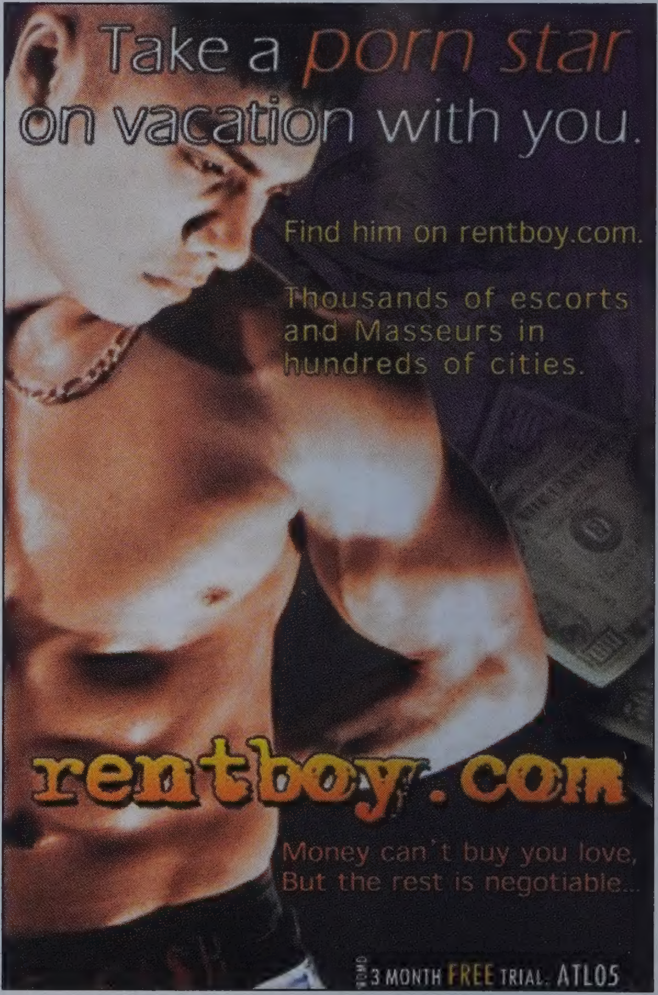
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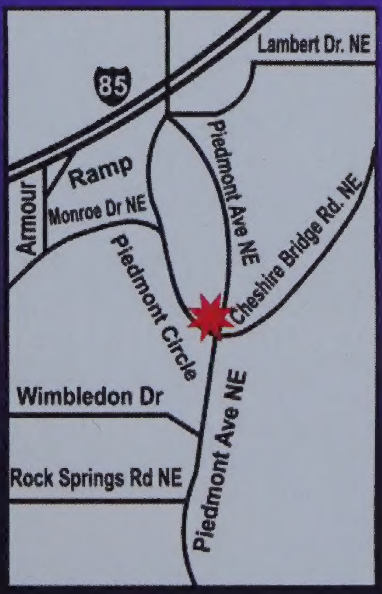
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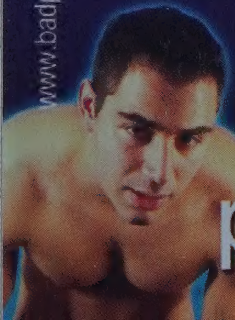

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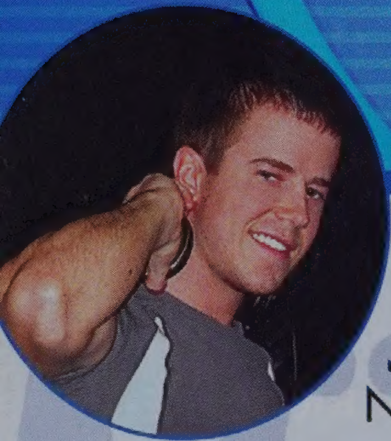

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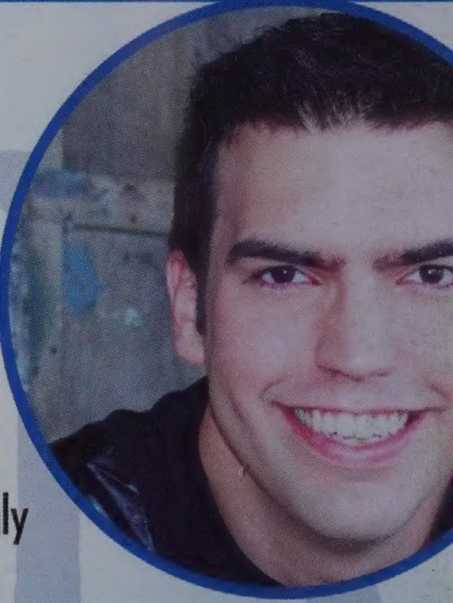

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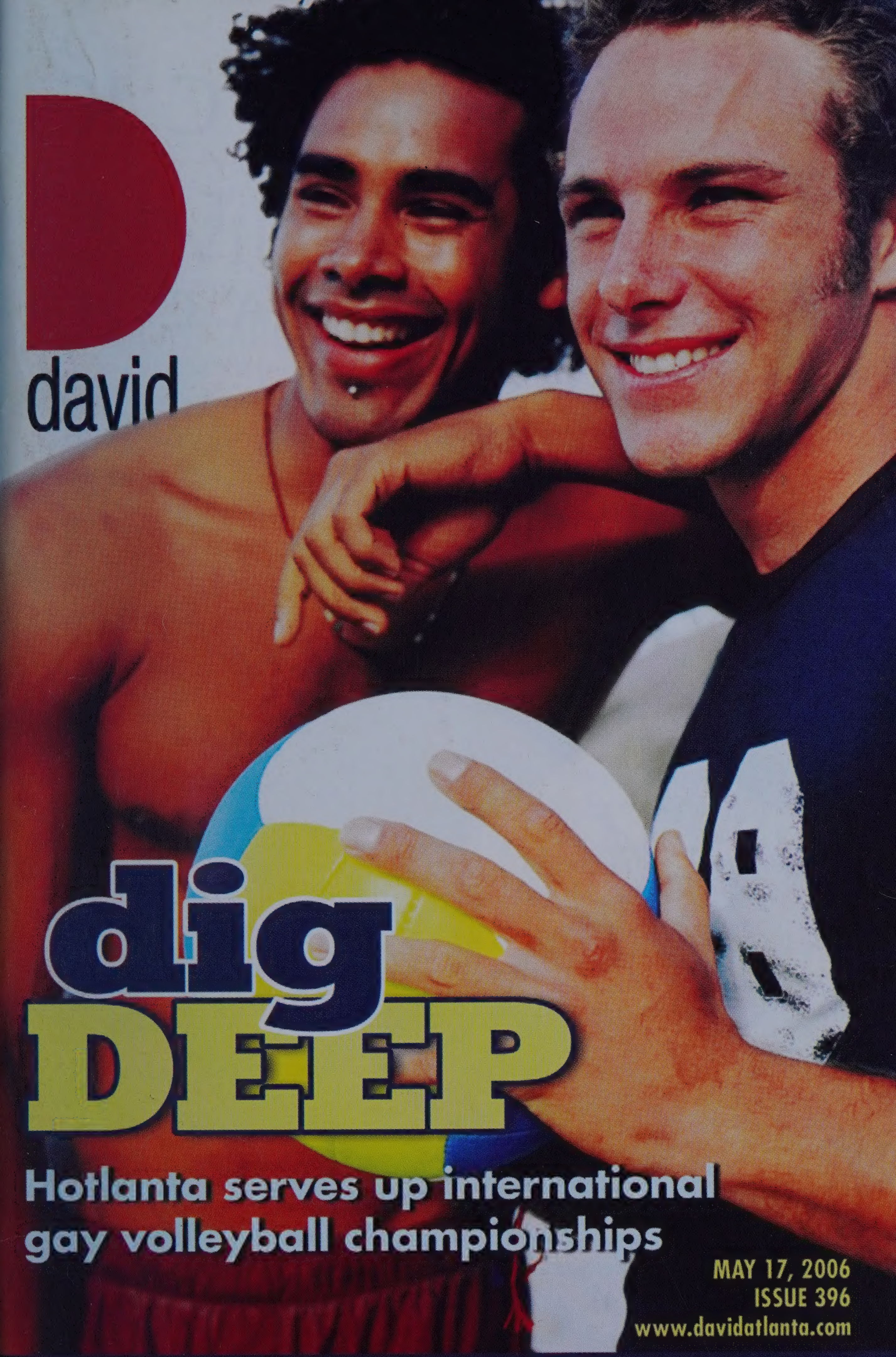

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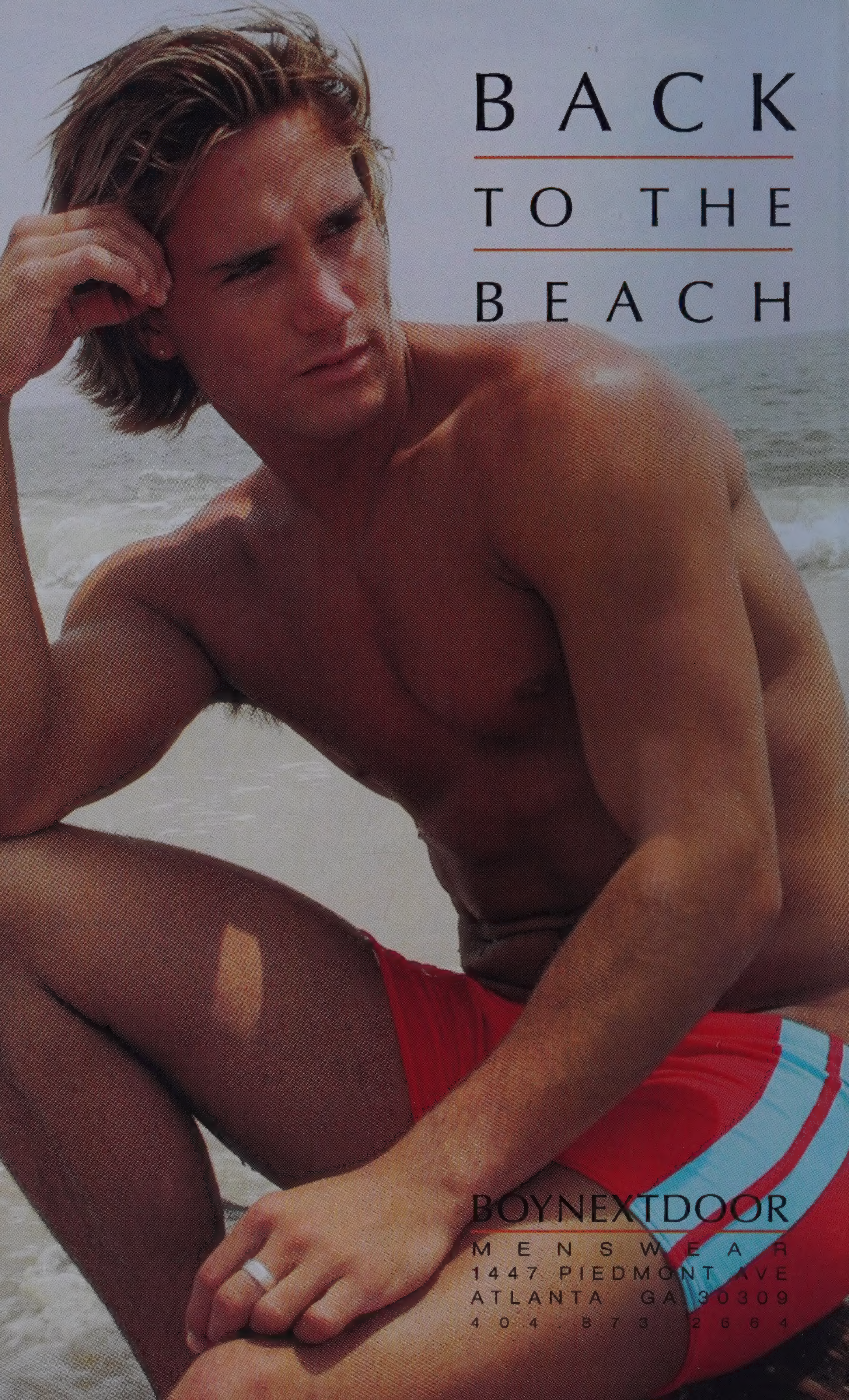
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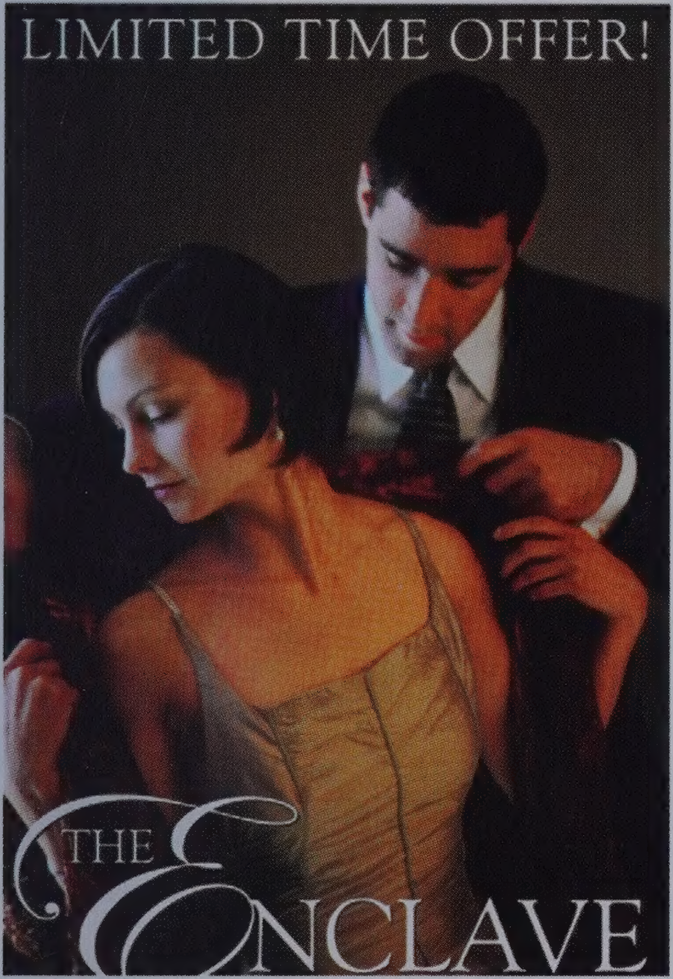
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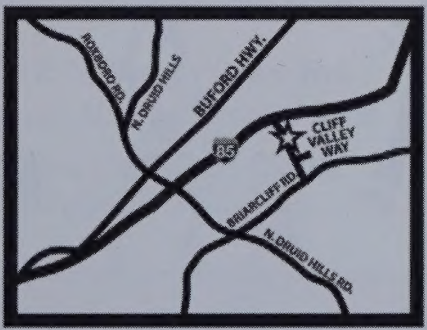
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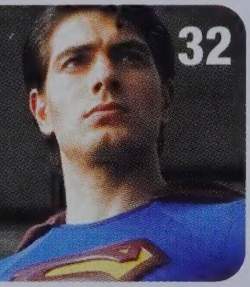

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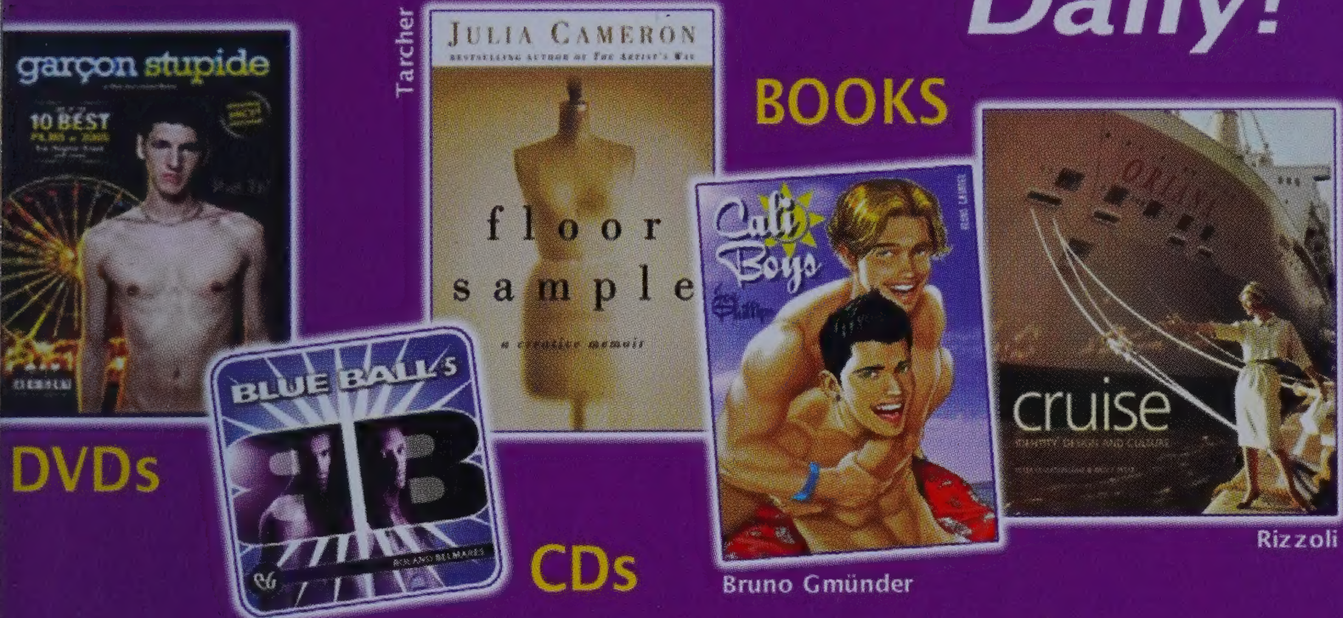
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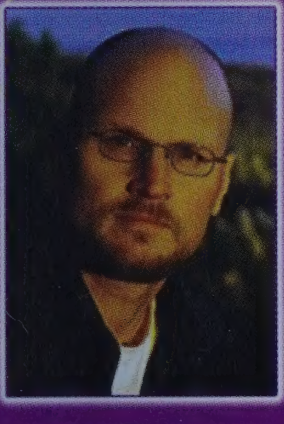

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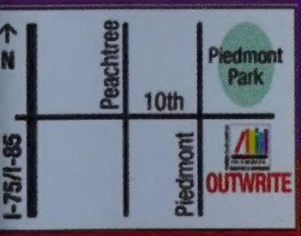
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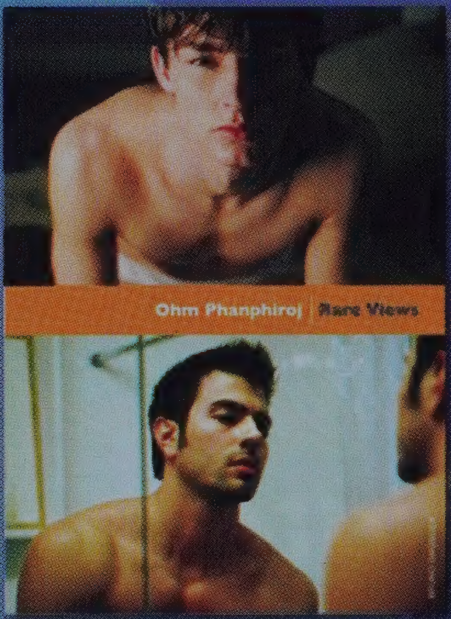
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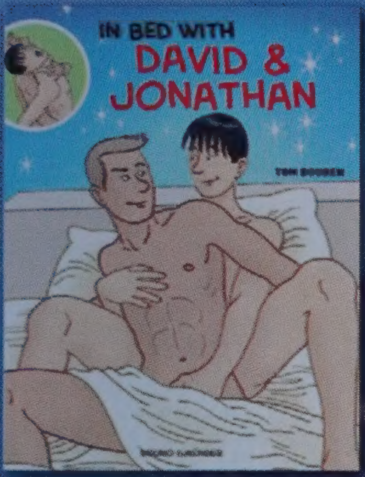
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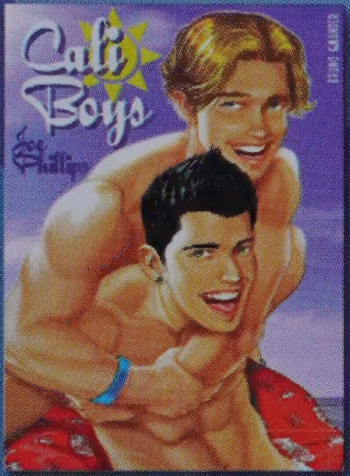
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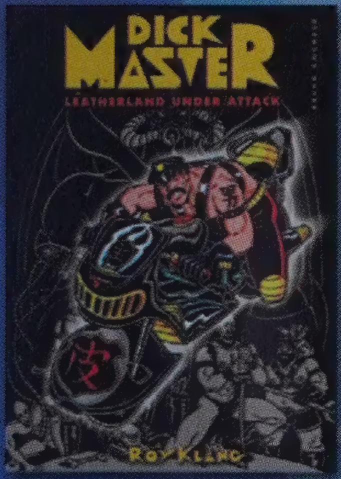
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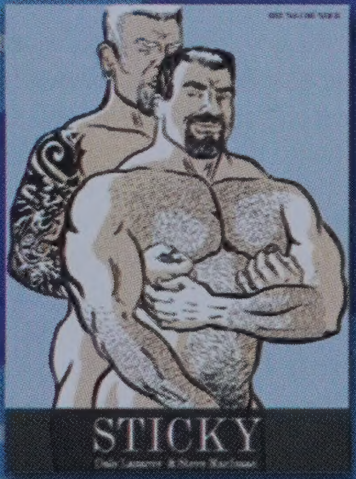
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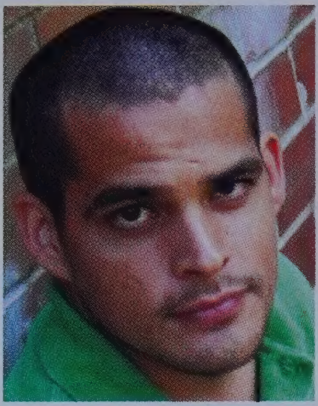

LIVIN' FOR THE CITY

BY RYAN LEE

CRYSTAL MESS

The answer to Tina isn't hard time

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, I COULD BE ADDICTED to something a lot more sinister.

Like crack. Yeah, if I was addicted to crack I'd feel a lot worse about myself than I do regarding my current compulsion.

My addiction du jour, while mildly disturbing, seems relatively innocent in the grand scheme of self-destructive habits. But I'm still a little worried that it might lead to more intense, even dangerous, experimentation.

I'm in love with the scent of my leather watch. Especially when I take it off after a long bike ride or grueling tennis match, when all of my sweat has drenched the wristband.

No matter how pungent the damp leather wristband gets, I can't get enough of inhaling it over and over again. Whether watching TV, reading a book or typing this column, I can't resist the urge to take my watch off and shove it three inches up my nose.

"I thought you liked smelling your watch when you took it off," my friend said the other day. "I didn't know you took your watch off so you can smell it - there's a big difference."

He was right, which made me nervous. I get scared thinking about how my harmless watch sniffing might lead to some muscle daddy burying my nose into the armpits of his sleeveless leather vest.

I KNOW FIRST-HAND THAT ADDICTION IS nothing to joke around about. Both of my parents were drug addicts. One of them still is, the other one sober only in death.

Drug addiction is a horrible and unfortunate thing to experience, and sadly many more gay men are beginning to experience it with crystal meth. Tina continues to invade gay culture with astonishing speed.

There is widespread concern among public health officials that crystal meth's inhibition-destroying powers are leading to increases in sexually reckless behavior among gay men, which is leading to more cases of HIV and other STDs.

That's very disturbing, but more disturbing is the idea that the solution to the crystal epidemic comes from incarcerating people who are battling a drug habit.

As if they haven't picked enough losing battles already, some gay leaders are signaling they're ready to jump aboard the "War on Drugs" to save gay men from Tina.

THERE ARE FEW EXAMPLES OF AMERICA'S ineptitude that are more obvious than the "War on Drugs," which is also a prime example of our nation's lingering racism, incompetent media and the gullibility of our citizens to be frightened into accepting a police state.

For almost three decades, we've spent billions of dollars each year, building thousands of new prisons - all of which are disproportionately occupied by black inmates - in a supposed attempt to get drugs off our streets. Meanwhile, drugs are more available than ever, and the media continues to give government officials a pass on their idiotic and ineffective policies.

Drug warriors continue to beat the prison drum, convincing worried citizens that their neighborhoods will be safe once a few hundred more drug dealers and users are behind bars. Like marijuana in the '20s and '30s, heroine in the '40s and '50s, LSD in the '60s and '70s, and cocaine and crack in the '80s and '90s, crystal meth has climbed to the top of the "Killer Drug" list today.

We tried solving past drug problems with punishment instead of compassion. For the sake of many gay men, including some of my friends, I hope that we don't continue going down that dead end road.

Ryan Lee wishes peace to anyone dealing with addiction. Sobriety truly does come one day at a time. E-mail him at ***RLee@DavidAtlanta.com***

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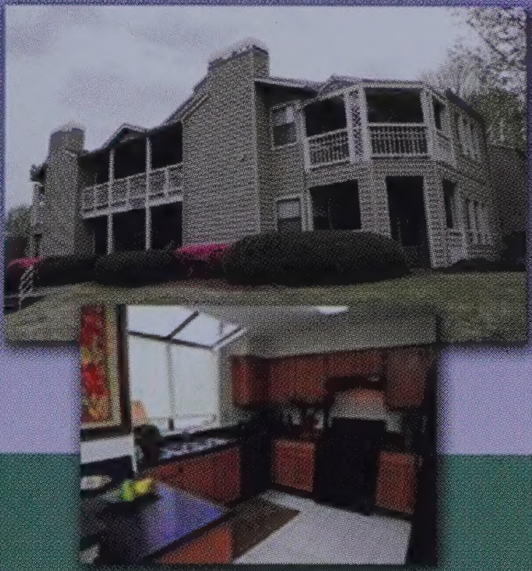

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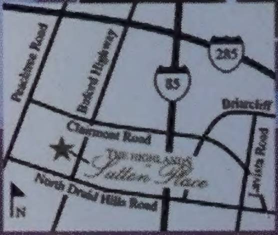
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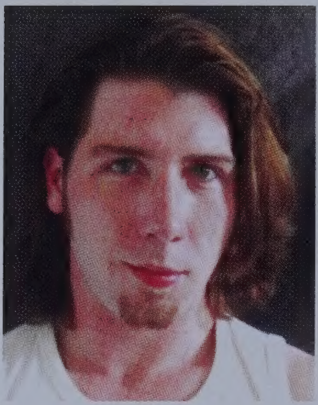


MAYBE IT'S JUST ME

BY TOPHER PAYNE

TRICK or RETREAT

My bedroom's **open-door policy** comes to an end

"WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS, RIGHT?" GEORGE ASKS out of the blue one night.

"It makes me nervous when you start conversations like that," I reply.

"I mean, we've known each other a long time, there's trust there, all that."

"Sure," I say.

"Would you ever give me your ATM card and code and tell me to go have fun?"

"That fun would be very short-lived, George. And no, I would not do that. Why?"

"Because you won't believe what Lawrence did!"

Lawrence is an old friend of George's who he still keeps in touch with for the amusing anecdotes. Apparently, Lawrence caught the attention of a young boy recently, and in a misguided (and assumingly alcohol-fueled) attempt at chivalry, Lawrence handed over his plastic.

"What happened?" I ask, enthralled.

"Well, the kid goes to the ATM at the bar, only pulls like 40 bucks to buy drinks, and gives the card back. Lawrence takes him home and fucks him. He gets up the next morning, the kid's gone, so's his card, and there's $800 stolen from his account."

"Hard to classify that as stolen," I counter. "It was more like a gift that kept on giving. What'd you tell Lawrence?"

"Sounds like you both got fucked, then."

ASIDE FROM THE JAW-DROPPING POOR JUDGMENT in giving your PIN to a trick, there is a separate cautionary tale here. It may not have anything to do with sex acts per se, but I would still classify it as high-risk behavior: Bringing a perfect stranger into your house, and going to sleep.

Don't act like you've never done it.

I brought a guy home one night who my roommate took one look at and promptly hid all of our valuables in her bedroom. Once, George gave his address to a bartender and invited him back to his place when the bar closed. Then, George took a cab home, left his front door unlocked, and passed out.

When he was awakened a few hours later by a naked man in his bed, he had no memory of the invite, and started screaming. I once got a rude awakening in a stranger's bed ... by his boyfriend, whom he lived with, which he neglected to mention.

This is how guys have run-ins with serial killers, people.

None of us would ever invite a stranger in off the street, tell them to make themselves at home, and turn in for the night, nor would we accept such an invitation. That would be insane.

But toss in a bar with flattering lighting and the promise of getting laid, and it suddenly seems like a great idea. Until you wake up the next day and your TV's gone, or you wind up in a bathtub filled with ice missing one of your kidneys, which totally happened to this friend of a friend of this girl I kinda knew in another city far away.

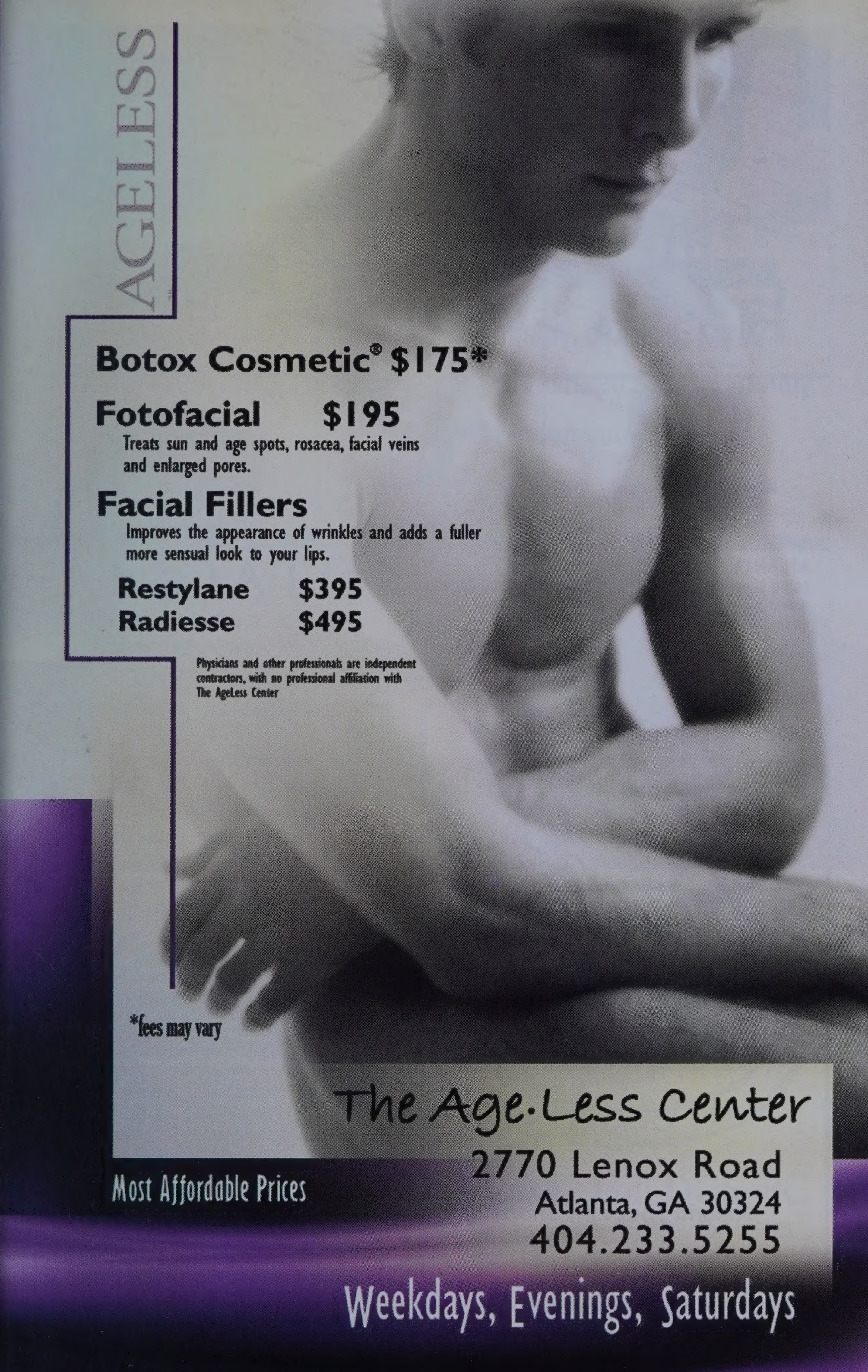
THE ALLURE IS SO GREAT sometimes, and it really perks up a bad week when some unknown man declares you attractive.

But sex with a hot stranger is one of those things that loses its appeal after a few times, like going to the World of Coke. All the little interactive exhibits are fascinating when you don't know what's next, but it's not exactly exceptional on your return visit, when you realize nothing's changed.

Plus, there's a whole line forming behind you of other tourists waiting for their turn. It's a fun distraction, but it doesn't make you feel very special.

"I've made a decision," I announce to George a few days later. "From now on, there must be actual dates before I get naked with someone. I'm done with the one-nighters. They're depressing. Not to mention, I have a lot of cool stuff I wanna hang on to, and I don't wanna end up feeling like the World of Coke."

And, as a true testament of why he's my best friend, George completely understands.



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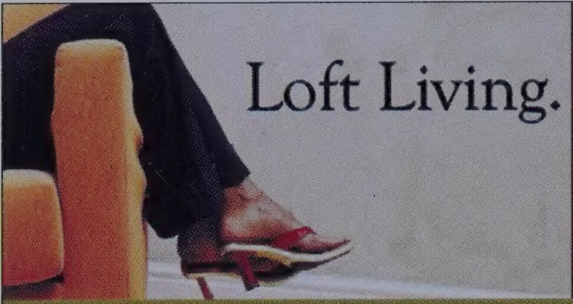

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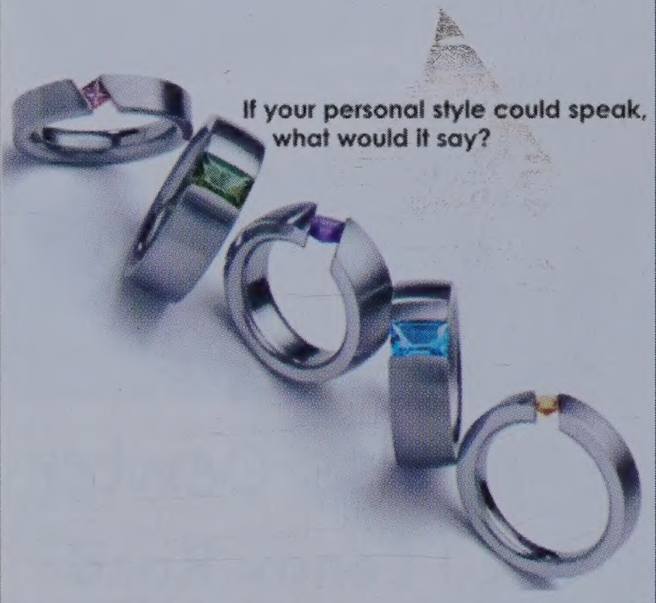

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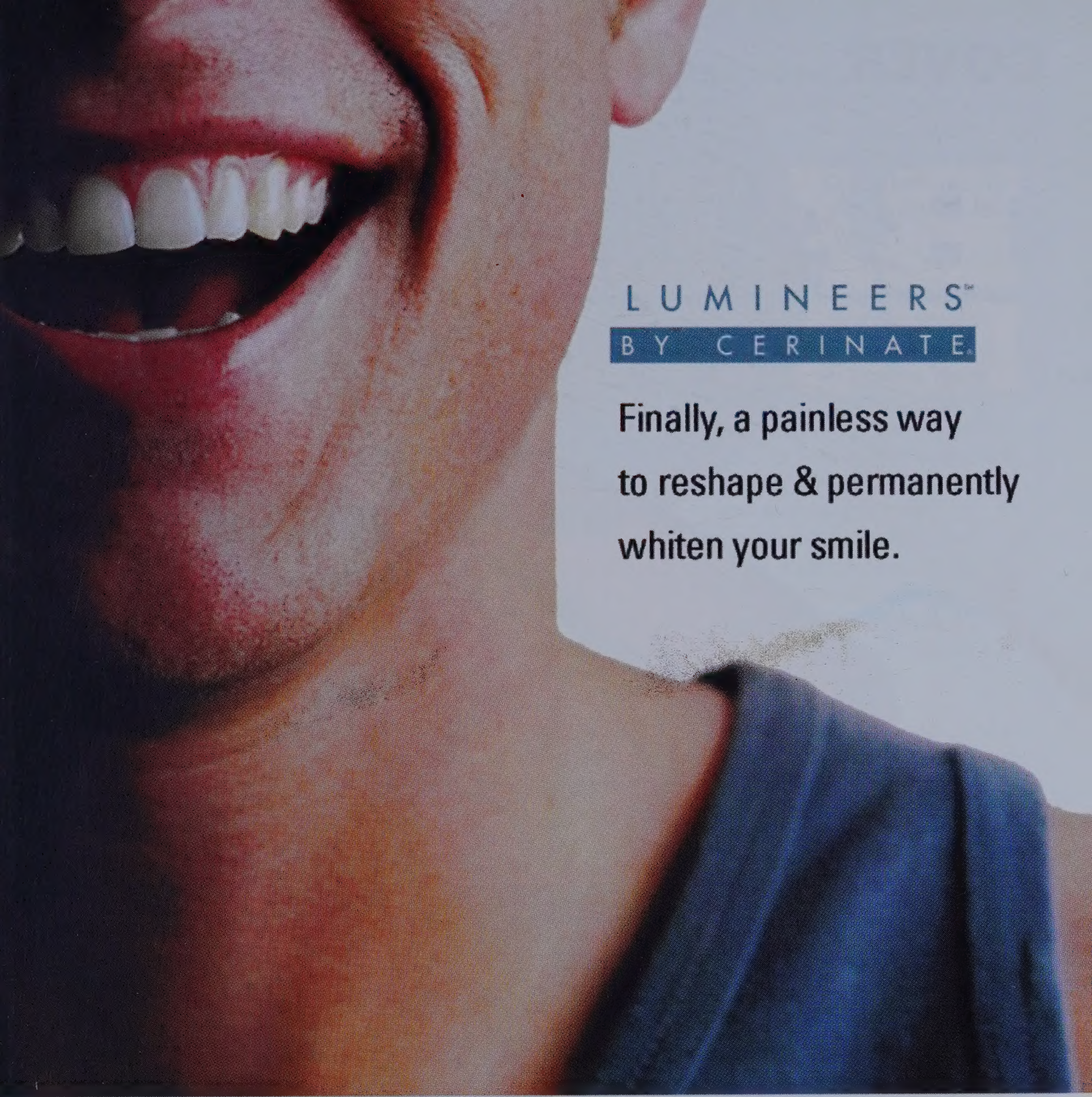

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COVER BY BO SHELL

BALLS in MOTION

Hotlanta nets **gay volleyball's** biggest American tourney

AS WE REFRESH OURselves over the long Memorial Weekend next week, the boys of the Hotlanta Volleyball Association are going to be busy competing and hosting the biggest championship their sport has to offer - and giving the rest of us some sporty eye candy and a fresh crop of out-of-towners.

More than 1,000 athletes and supporters representing more than 100 teams across North America are expected for the 24th North American Gay Volleyball Association Championships, which hits the Georgia World Congress Center May 25-28.

“Hotlanta Volleyball Association has annually organized great volleyball leagues, tournaments and player development,” says Jeff Redfield, president of NAGVA. “This will mark the first time NAGVA Championships have ever been held in Atlanta and the Southeast, and we encourage any volleyball enthusiasts to play or simply come out and support the community at this event.”

Last year, the HVA was planning their 15th successful Hotlanta Classic tournament for the weekend of July Fourth, an event for which Atlanta is known on the gay volleyball circuit, Redfield adds.

The NAGVA was founded in 1981 to bring queer volleyball players together on and off the court. The organization sanctions more than 30 local tournaments each year. The group's membership now exceeds 5,000 players across the continent - several hundreds of whom plan hit the courts and then hit Atlanta's streets to mix and mingle.

THE EVENT BRINGS NORTH AMERICA'S BEST gay volleyball players together for the culmination of the NAGVA tournament season, and it is not all serves and spikes.

Players and officials say it's a time where competition and fun meet at the net. With six-man team names like the Dallas CherriHo's, Atlanta Smack Some Wood and the Cincinnati C-Men, it's easy to see the irreverent and fun team spirit that shines through the serious competition.

"Championships is always very competitive and a lot of fun," says Mark Davis, local director for this year's event. "The organization of the tournament is a large undertaking for HVA, but with the support of its members and the local gay community, we know we can make this a great event for the participants and for Atlanta."

Hotlanta Volleyball players often meet for drinks and socializing after practices and events, and enjoy the opportunity to see the nightlife of host cities when traveling to competitions. Now its our turn to roll out the red carpet to first-time visitors.

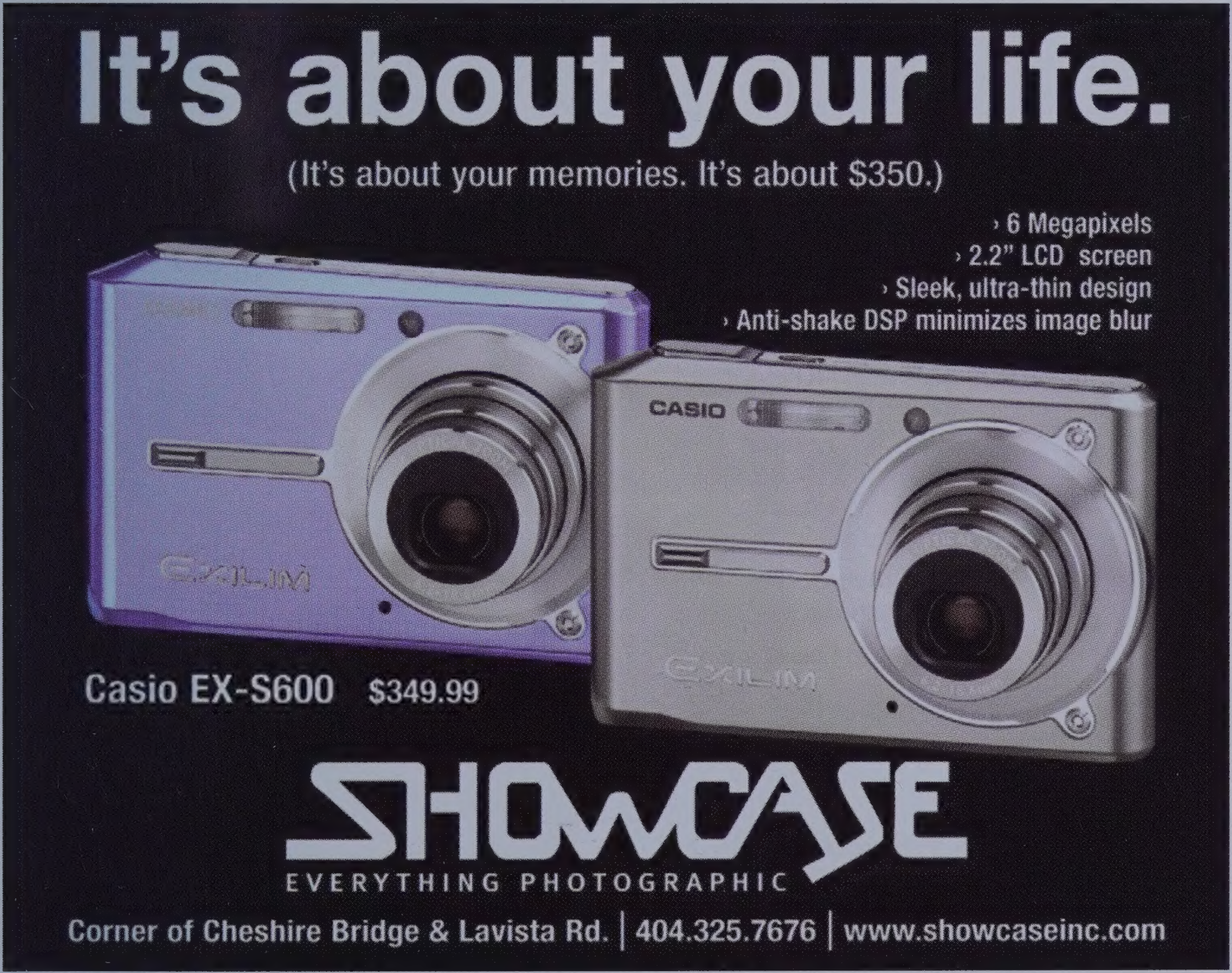
PLAYERS VARY IN SKILL LEVEL and have opportunities to move up in competitive play. Last year, Hotlanta Volleyball counted 345 members, including women and straight athletes.

And when they're not playing or partying together, HVA athletes can be found raising money for service projects and gay-related non-profit organizations like Project Open Hand and the annual Atlanta AIDS Walk.

HVA Commissioner Bob Brandau says the group considered suspending their Hotlanta Classic tournament in light of other big sports festivals like Chicago's Gay Games and Montreal's World Outgames. But ultimately, the association didn't want to pass up the opportunity to host the coveted championship.

"To be considered for and to receive a championship tournament of this importance is something to be proud of," he says.

The NAGVA Championships XXIV serve up May 25-28 at the Georgia World Congress Center, 285 International Blvd. 770-621-5062, www.hotlantavolleyball.org



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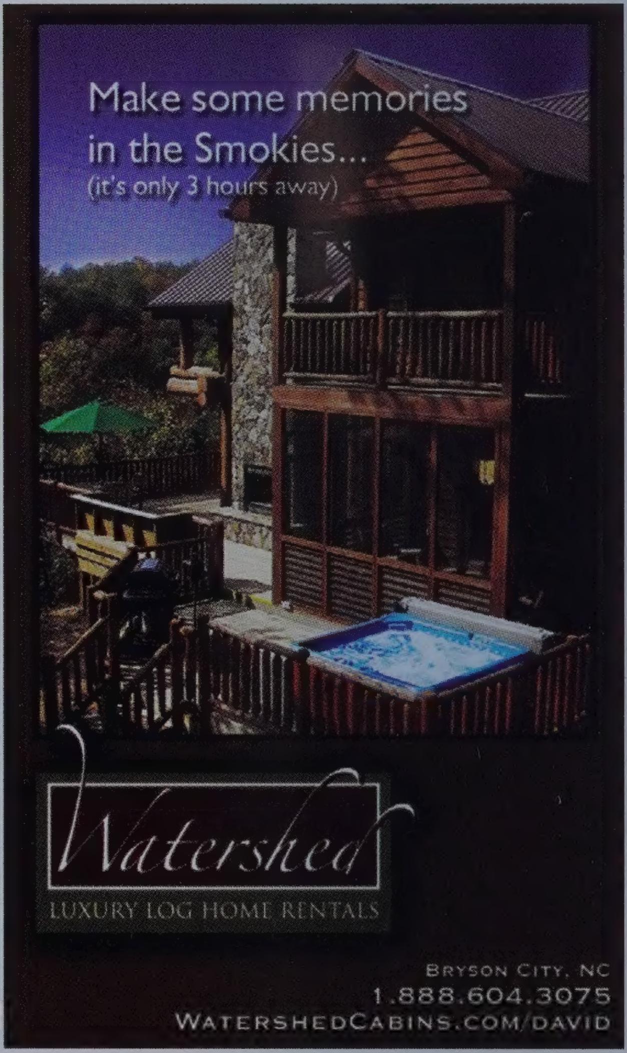

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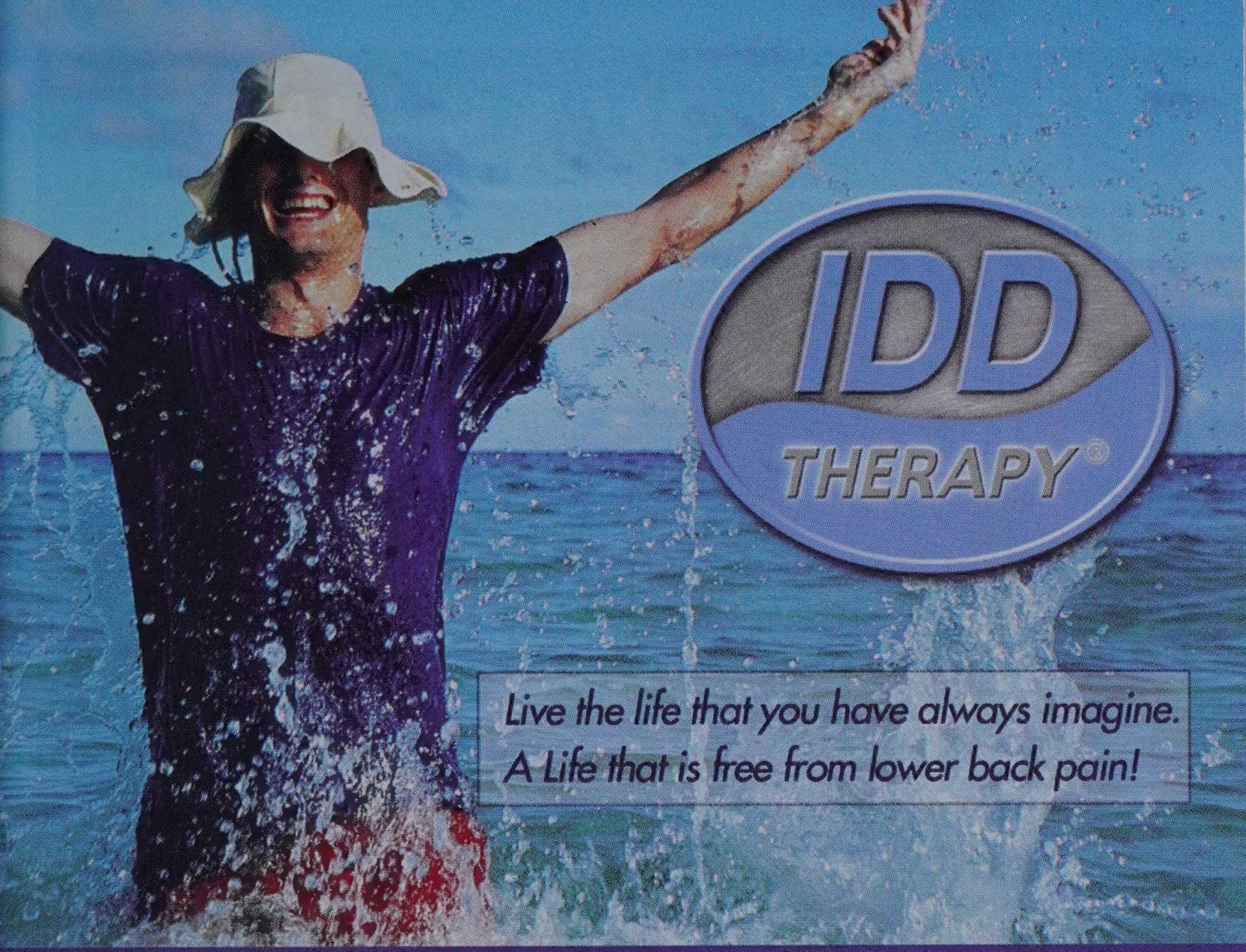
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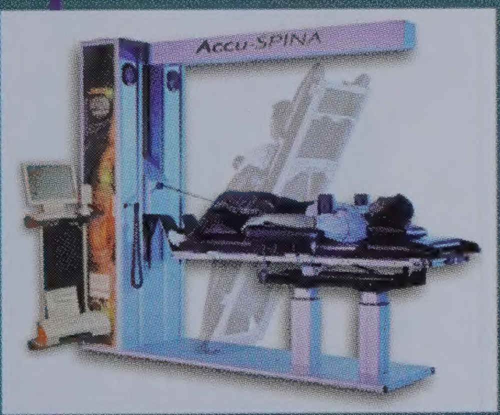

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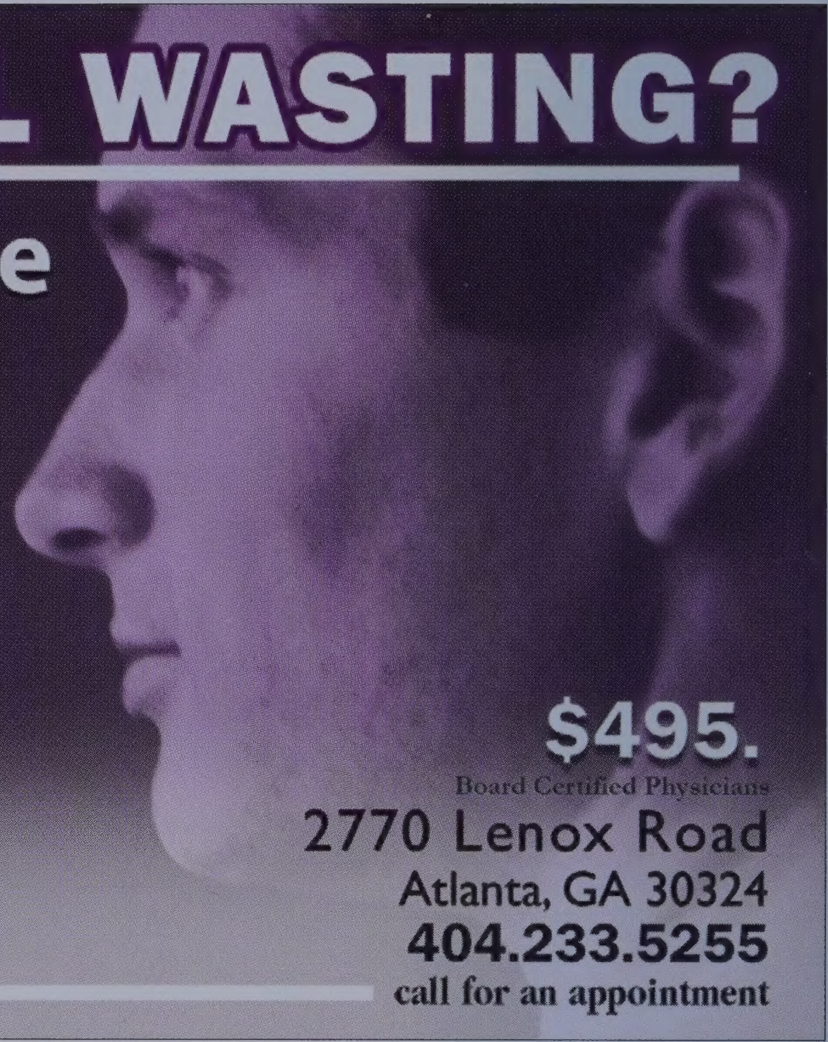

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BY RYAN LEE

FLORIDA STATE OF MIND

Sunshine State to see rainbow skies in coming weeks

EVER NOTICED HOW IF YOU LOOK AT A MAP OF the United States from a certain angle that the state of Florida looks like America's schlong? Well that might explain why thousands of gay men are ready to descend on the Sunshine State, hoping to pack a little panhandle into their summer banana hammocks.

Memorial Day Weekend in Pensacola, hosted by Johnny Chisholm, the wizard behind the Emerald City nightclub in Pensacola, kicks off the gay summer party circuit and returns to Park East Beach for the first time since Hurricane Ivan hit in 2004.

Miami also serves up a weekend of parties over Memorial Day at Sizzle 2006.

Less than a week after the Memorial Day parties wrap up, the groove shifts to the center of the state, as Gay Days at Disney celebrates its 16th birthday at the Magic Kingdom in Orlando.

Emerald City resident DJ Jay R starts the 52 hours of partying stretched over five days in Pensacola with the "Foreplay" party on May 25. Memorial Day weekend features a laundry list of top-name gay DJs, including Roland Belmares, Tracy Young, Manny Lehman and Atlanta's own David Knapp, who spins at the "Sweat" party May 27.

RuPaul was announced as a late addition to Lehman's May 28 "Abracadabra XII" set, and the weekend climaxes with, appropriately enough, the "Climax" party on May 29, which features DJ Dewight Barkley.

DON DUKE

MANY OF THOSE SAME DJs ALSO MAKE APPEARances at Gay Days, which gets started the day after the "Climax" party in Pensacola.

Lesbian comedian Kate Clinton starts off the female-filled Gay Days festival with a stand-up routine on June 2, the same night as a concert featuring dancehall divas Abigail and Martha "It's Raining Men" Walsh.

One day later, Taylor Dayne takes the stage for a concert, and on June 4 Lisa Lisa and Kim English team up to make sure summer starts with fireworks.

Chisholm brings his "One Mighty Weekend" party to Orlando during gay days, amping up the annual event with DJs like Tony Moran, Kimberly S., Lehman, Belmares and Knapp. Making sure the weekend truly is a mighty one, disco legend Gloria Gaynor headlines the Moran party June 3 to make sure gay boys still know how to survive.

And if Orlando doesn't bring you to your knees, you can go down even further to Florida's tip – AKA Miami – to check out Sizzle 2006, featuring some of the hottest house and hip-hop DJs from across the country, including DJ Craig Loftis from Chicago, DJ Keith Stephens from New York and Atlanta's own DJ JFK. Sizzle packs five parties and about a dozen social events from May 25-29.

PARTY SCHEDULES ON PAGE 28

THE LAST SUNDAY IN JUNE
BY JONATHAN TOLINS MAY 18 - JULY 1

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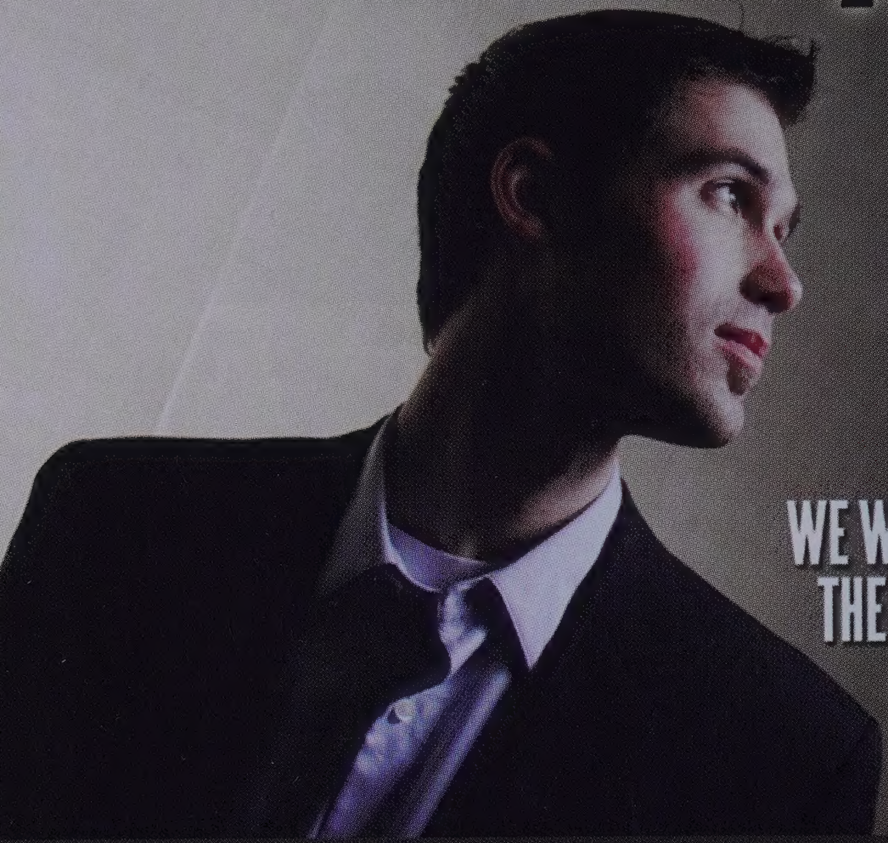

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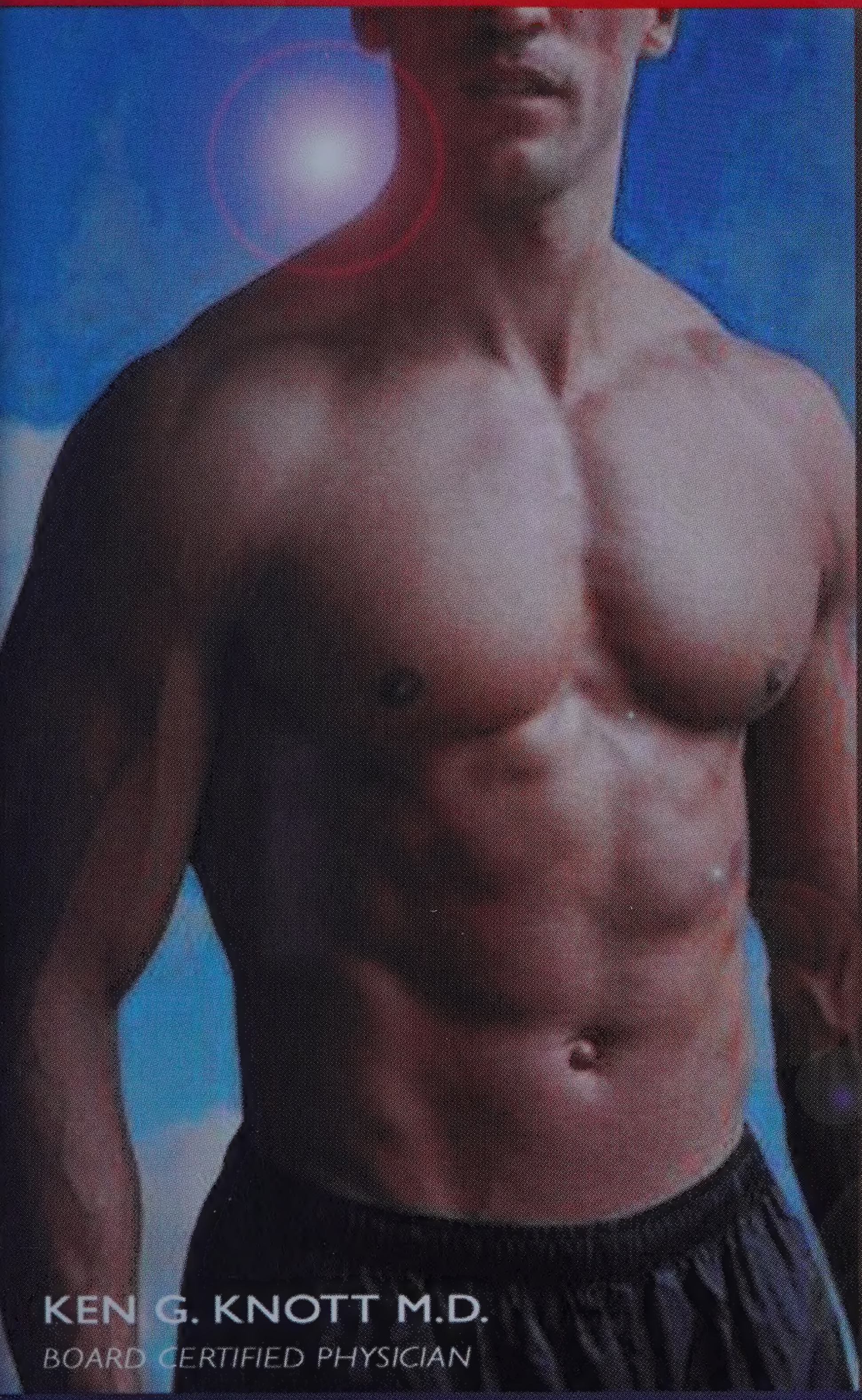

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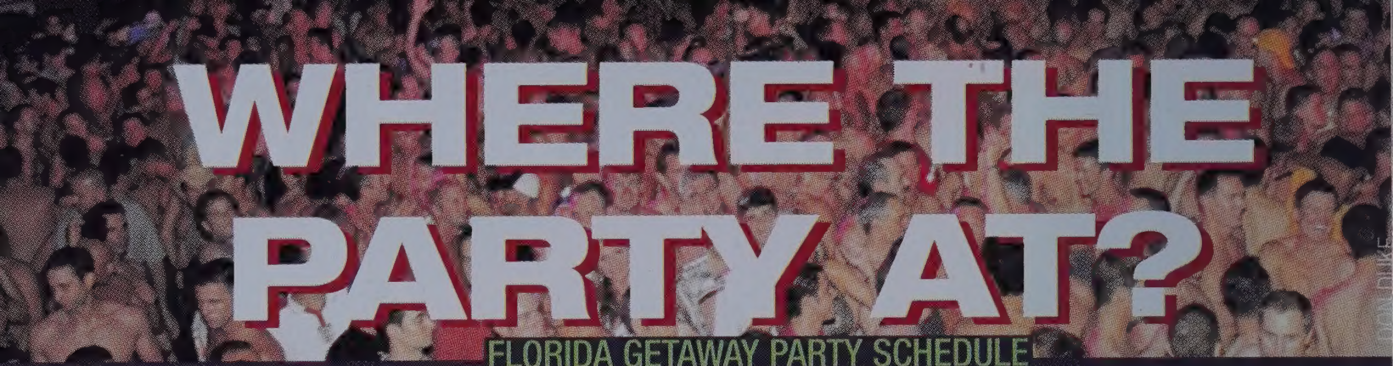

WHERE THE PARTY AT?

FLORIDA GETAWAY PARTY SCHEDULE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND IN PENSACOLA
MAY 25-29
www.memorialweekendpensacola.com

'Foreplay' w/ DJ Jay R
May 25, 9 p.m.-3 a.m.
Emerald City

'Bounce 1' w/ DJ Tracy Young
May 26, 4-8 p.m.
Hampton Inn

'Wave' w/ Roland Belmares & RuPaul
May 26, 10 p.m.-5 a.m.
Park East Beach

'Bounce 2' w/ DJ Michael Tank
May 27, 4-8 p.m.
Hampton Inn

'Sweat' w/ DJ David Knapp
May 27, 9 p.m.-3 a.m.
Emerald City

'Spellbound 1' w/ DJ Alyson Calagna
May 28, 3-9 a.m.
The Annex

'Abracadabra XII' w/
DJ Manny Lehman & RuPaul
May 28, 9 p.m.-4 a.m.
Pensacola Civic Center

'Spellbound 2' w/ DJ Kimberly S.
May 29, 3-9 a.m.
The Annex

'Climax' w/ DJ Dewight Barkley
May 29, 9 p.m.-3 a.m.

GAY DAYS AT DISNEY
June 2-4 www.gaydays.com

Kate Clinton stand-up
June 2, 8-9:15 p.m.
Royal Plaza Hote

Abigail & Martha Wash concert
June 2, midnight
Parliament House

Taylor Dayne concert
June 3, 1 a.m.
Parliament House

Lisa Lisa & Kim English concert
June 4, midnight
Parliament House

ONE MIGHTY WEEKEND IN ORLANDO
June 2-4
www.onemightyweekend.com

'Reunion' parties
June 2: DJ Alyson Calagna
June 3: DJ Don Bishop
June 4: DJ David Knapp
Buena Vista Palace Resort

'Beach Ball' w/ DJ Kimberly S.
June 2
Disney's Typhoon Lagoon

'One Mighty Party' w/ DJ Tony Moran,
Brett Henrichsen & Gloria Gaynor
June 3
Disney's Magic Kingdom

'Colosseum Party' w/ DJ Tracy Young
June 4
Hard Rock Live

'Magical Journeys' after parties
June 2: DJ Roland Belmares
June 3: DJ Abel
June 4: DJ Manny Lehman
Disney's Arabian Nights

SIZZLE 2006 IN MIAMI
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Metropolis: May 26

Solo on the Bay: May 27

Club Space: May 28

African Heat @ The Warehouse
May 29

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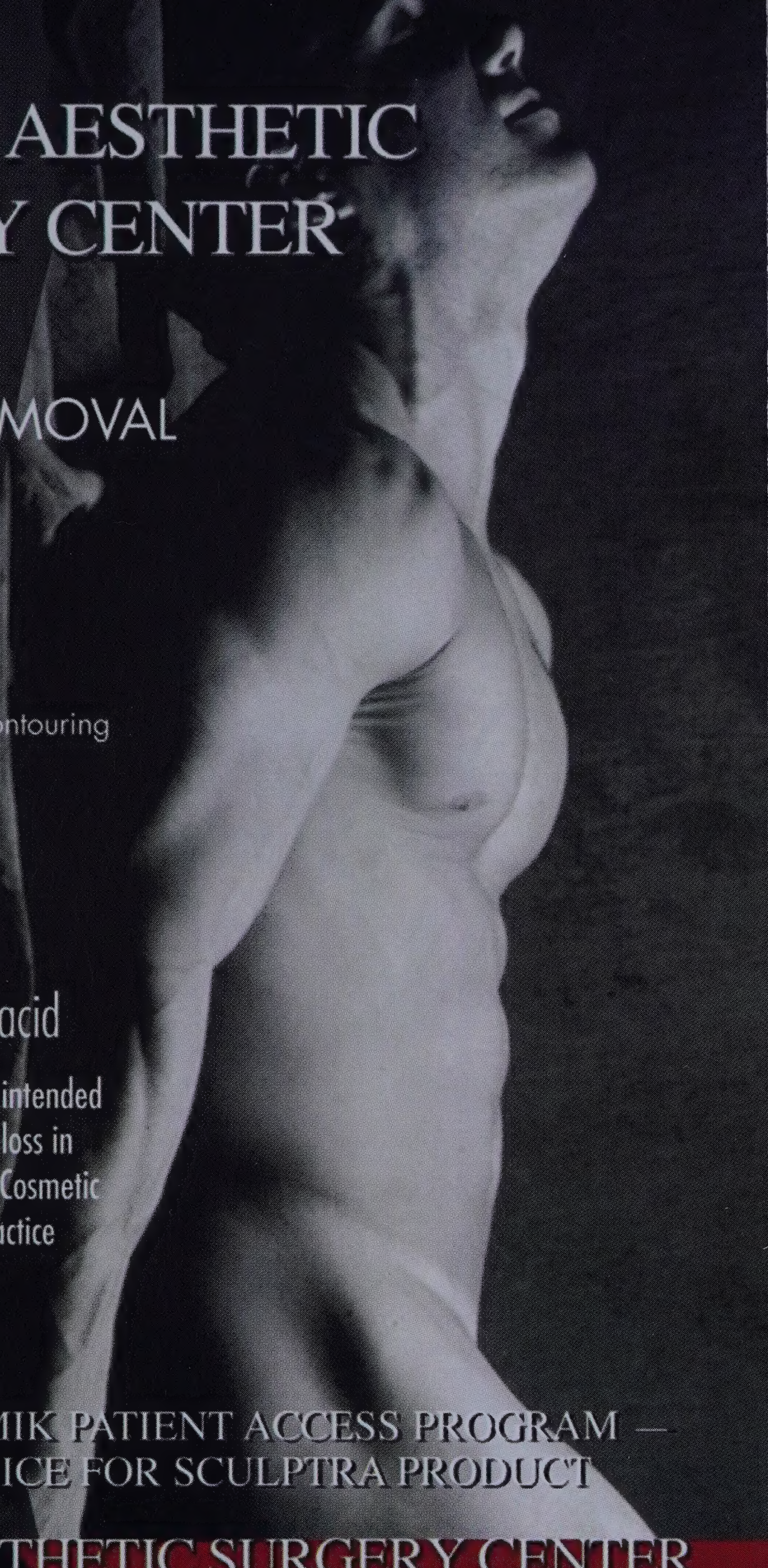

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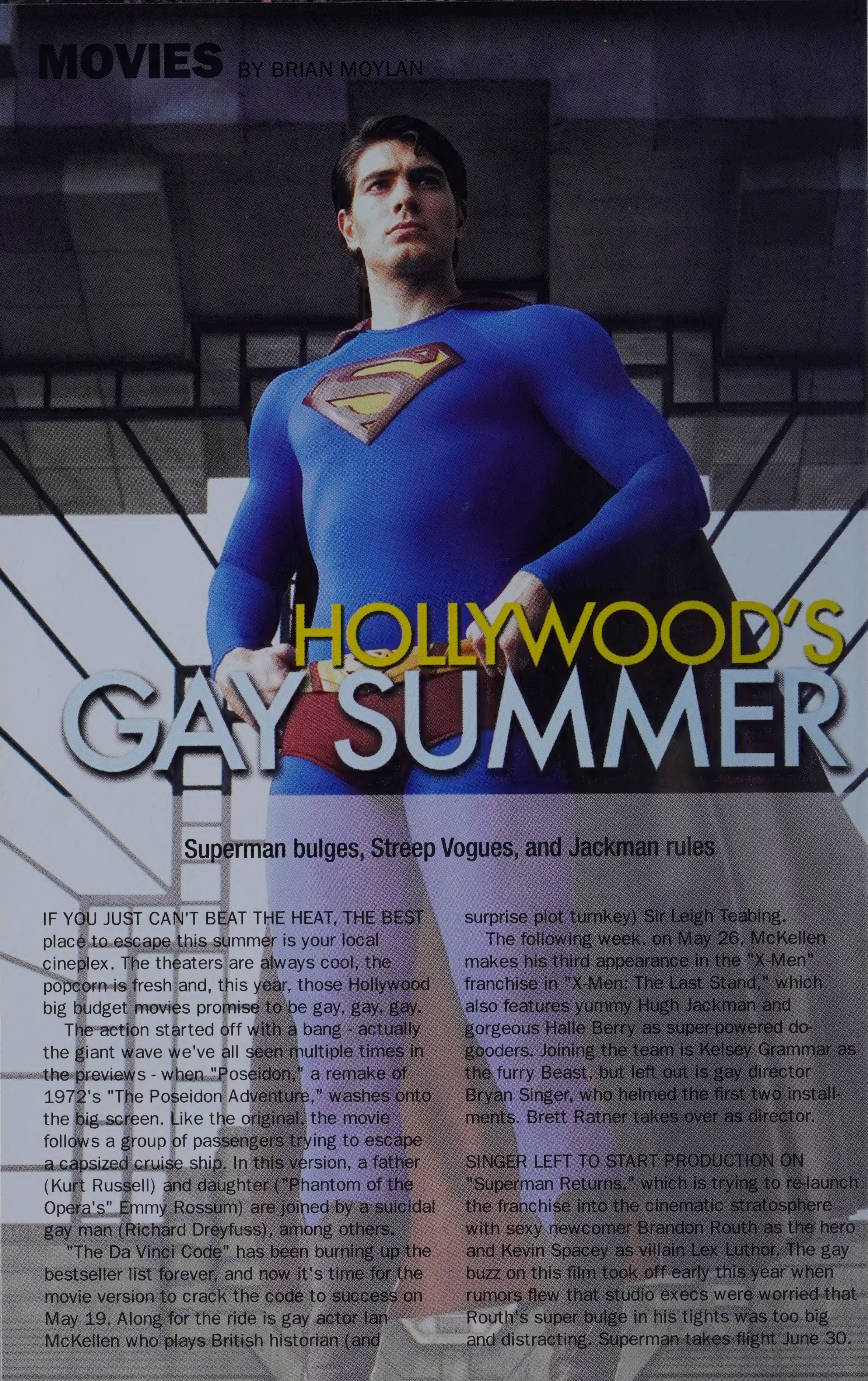


HOLLYWOOD'S GAY SUMMER

Superman bulges, Streep Vogues, and Jackman rules

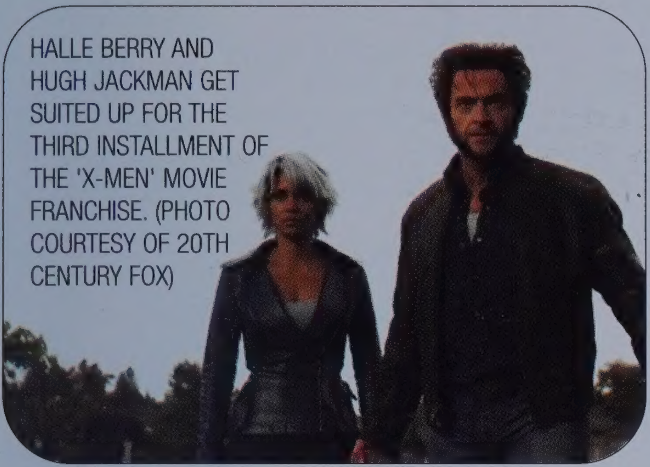
IF YOU JUST CAN'T BEAT THE HEAT, THE BEST place to escape this summer is your local cineplex. The theaters are always cool, the popcorn is fresh and, this year, those Hollywood big budget movies promise to be gay, gay, gay.

The action started off with a bang - actually the giant wave we've all seen multiple times in the previews - when "Poseidon," a remake of 1972's "The Poseidon Adventure," washes onto the big screen. Like the original, the movie follows a group of passengers trying to escape a capsized cruise ship. In this version, a father (Kurt Russell) and daughter ("Phantom of the Opera's" Emmy Rossum) are joined by a suicidal gay man (Richard Dreyfuss), among others.

"The Da Vinci Code" has been burning up the bestseller list forever, and now it's time for the movie version to crack the code to success on May 19. Along for the ride is gay actor Ian McKellen who plays British historian (and surprise plot turnkey) Sir Leigh Teabing.

The following week, on May 26, McKellen makes his third appearance in the "X-Men" franchise in "X-Men: The Last Stand," which also features yummy Hugh Jackman and gorgeous Halle Berry as super-powered do-gooders. Joining the team is Kelsey Grammar as the furry Beast, but left out is gay director Bryan Singer, who helmed the first two installments. Brett Ratner takes over as director.

SINGER LEFT TO START PRODUCTION ON "Superman Returns," which is trying to re-launch the franchise into the cinematic stratosphere with sexy newcomer Brandon Routh as the hero and Kevin Spacey as villain Lex Luthor. The gay buzz on this film took off early this year when rumors flew that studio execs were worried that Routh's super bulge in his tights was too big and distracting. Superman takes flight June 30.



HALLE BERRY AND HUGH JACKMAN GET SUITED UP FOR THE THIRD INSTALLMENT OF THE 'X-MEN' MOVIE FRANCHISE. (PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX)

The same weekend, Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway ("Brokeback Mountain") star as a bitchy fashion editor and her cowed assistant in "The Devil Wears Prada," the go-to movie for evil queens that skewers Vogue editor Anna Wintour.

On June 28, the much-delayed big-screen version of "Strangers With Candy" finally comes out. Based on the 2001 Comedy Central series, Amy Sedaris plays Jerry Blank and Stephen Colbert plays her not-very-closeted teacher. Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick also have cameos.

Also in June, Lily Tomlin and Lindsay Lohan are part of an ensemble cast in Robert Altman's "A Prairie Home Companion" on June 9. On June 2, "Best in Show's" John Michael Higgins takes on the role of the girl's best gay friend in the Jennifer Aniston/Vince Vaughn romantic comedy "The Break Up." Let's hope the rest of the movie isn't as formulaic.

EVERYONE CAN TAKE A BREATHER IN JULY, when the only big gay release is Sundance darling "Little Miss Sunshine." This story about a wacky clan racing the titular character cross-country to enter a beauty pageant features a suicidal gay academic (Steve Carell) on July 28.

August's big comedy, "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" has NASCAR in its sights on Aug. 4. Will Ferrell plays a king of the pro racing circuit about to lose his crown to upstart gay Frenchy Jean Girard (Sacha Baron Cohen from HBO's "Da Ali G Show").

The same day, Sundance's other darling "Quinceañera," about coming of age and gay gentrification in Latino Los Angeles, er, comes out.

As usual, there are a bunch of smaller gay-themed movies that may or may not make it to a theater near you or may be coming out on different dates around the country. Most notably, the film festival favorite from the popular comic strip, "The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green," gets a wider release in June.

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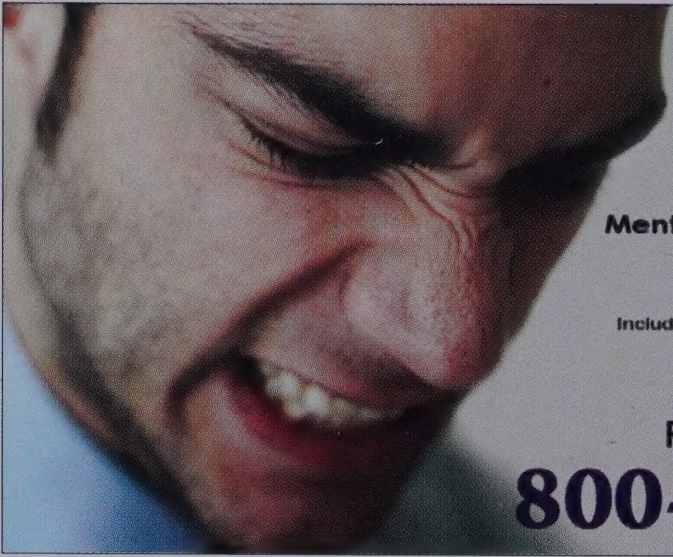

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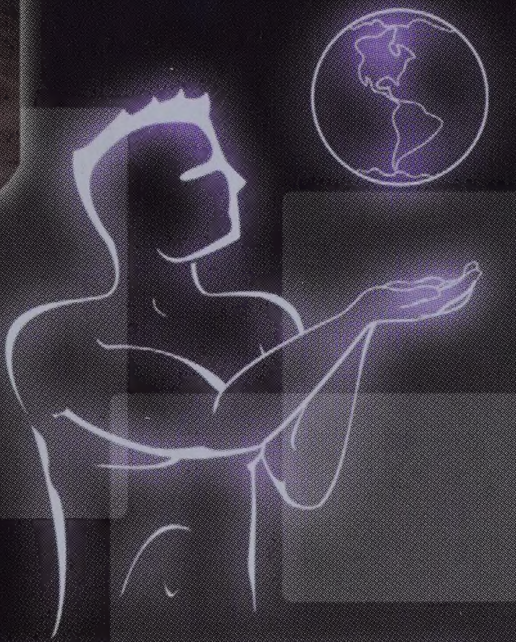

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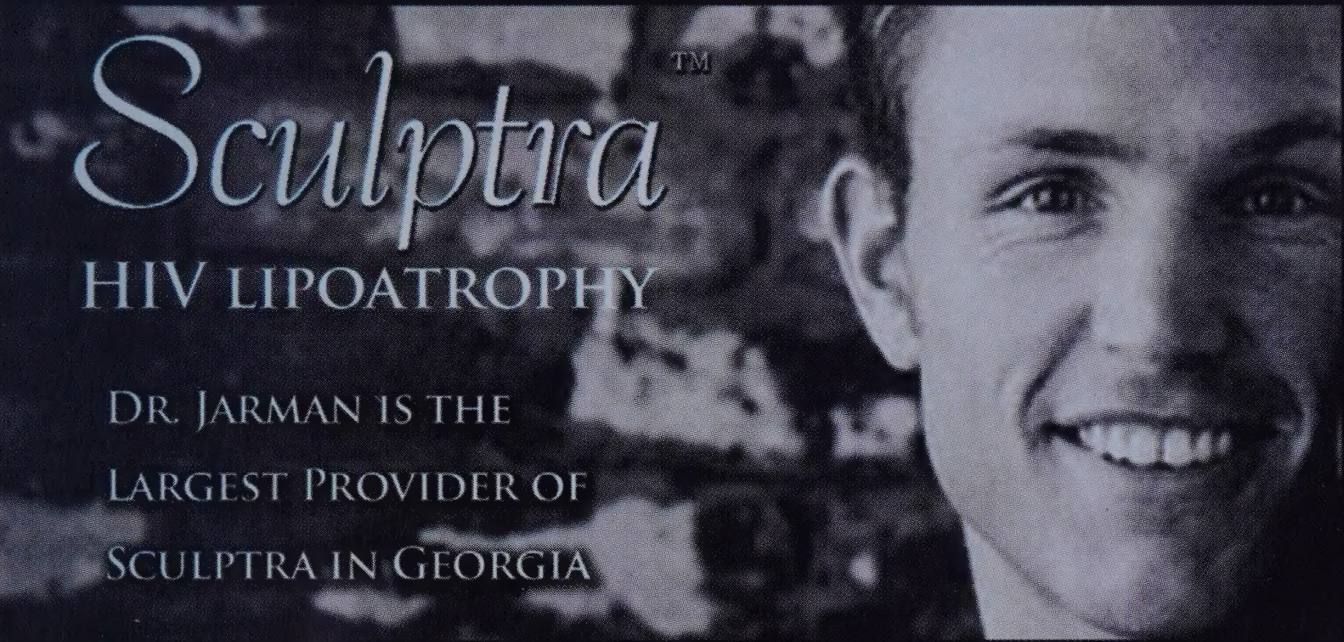

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SLAM CHAMP

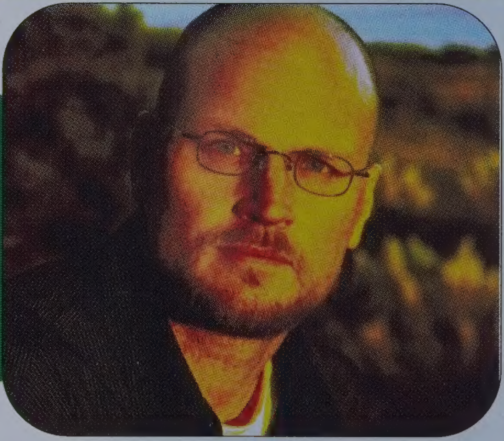
Buddy Wakefield, the two-time Individual World Poetry Slam Champion featured on NPR, the BBC, and HBO's Def Poetry Jam, who happens to be a proud member of the 'family,' visits Atlanta to throw down his award winning skills. *Thursday, May 18, 8 p.m. at Tower II, 135 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-1535, www.cliterationline.com*

SHOW OF PRIDE

Watch the story of Tom and Michael unfold as a group of friends visits for New York's Gay Pride, when it's discovered that one of their own has traded his pride for a bride in '**The Last Sunday in June**.' *Gala opening Sunday, May 21, 5 p.m., runs through July 1 at Actor's Express, 887 W. Marietta St. Ste. J-107. 404-607-7469, www.actors-exprss.com*

MEMOIR MAGIC

With the help of Outwrite Bookstore & Coffehouse, author **Augusten Burroughs** returns to Atlanta with 'Possible Side Effects,' his latest book of autobiographical essays on his fucked up childhood and equally entertaining adult years. If you don't know his work yet, you should. *Saturday, May 23, 8 p.m. at 7Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. 404-907-0082, www.outwritebooks.com*



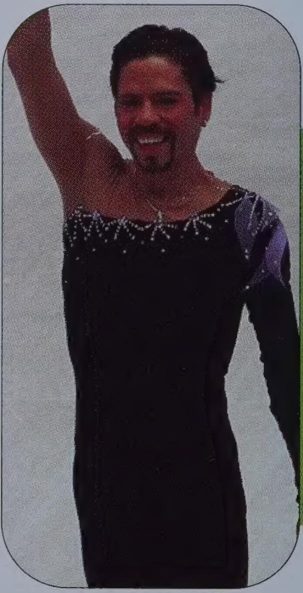
WOMEN 4 MEN?

These ladies are the talk of the town this weekend as three venues host girl DJs that know how to get the boys going.

DJ Liz Owens spins at *Wetbar. Friday, May 19, 10 p.m. at 960 Spring St. 404-745-9494, www.wetbaratlanta.com*

DJ Lydia Prim takes hold of the Amsterdam dance floor. *Saturday, May 20, 10 p.m. at 502 Amsterdam Ave. 404-892-2227, www.amsterdam-atlanta.com*

DJ Susan Morabito soaks the guys at WETbar's weekly Submerge Party. Saturday, May 20, 10 p.m. at 960 Spring St. 404-745-9494, www.wetbaratlanta.com



FROZEN FRUIT

Rudy Galindo, Johnny Weir and other big-name skaters glide into the ATL in **Champions on Ice**, possibly the gayest event of 2006 - or ever. *Saturday, May 20, 3 p.m. at Philips Arena, 1 Philips Drive, 404-787-3000, www.philipsarena.com*

HOT DATES

05.19-20 **BRUNCH NETWORKING:** Join the guys for two monthly events: the Six Degrees of Separation mixer and the networking brunch. *Mixer Friday, May 19, 6:30 p.m. at Red Chair, 550-C Amsterdam Ave. 404-870-0532. Brunch Saturday, May 20, 1 p.m. at Gordon Biersch, 848 Peachtree St. 404-870-0805. www.bcng.org*

05.20 **GAY RODEO:** The Georgia Gay Rodeo hosts casino night fundraiser with tables for Blackjack, Roulette and Texas Hold 'Em. *8 p.m. at Stagedoor, 4431 Hugh Howell Road, Tucker. 770-414-9292, www.georgiagayrodeo.com*

DAVID KNAPP: Atlanta's favorite hometown boy plays a set for the raucous crowd at *Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Road. www.jungleclub.net.*

LEBUZZ COOKOUT: Celebrate this Cobb County gay outpost's Pride float with burgers and dogs in the afternoon, a staff drag show at *8 p.m. and the infamous Le Girlzz at 11 p.m. Le Buzz, 585 Franklin Road, Marietta. 770-424-1337*

05.20-21 **FIRST MCC:** The big gay church presents a bowl-a-thon Saturday and an auction of 'All Things Summer' after Sunday's 11 a.m. church service. *Bowling Saturday, May 20, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the Northeast Plaza Fun Bowl, 3285 Buford Highway.. Auction Sunday, May 21 at the First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Road. 404-325-4143, www.firstmcc.com*

05.21 **HIDDEN HISTORY:** 'Out of Our Closets' discusses how and why you should record your own fabulous gay stories for posterity. *1:30 p.m. at the Breman Museum, 1440 Spring St. 678-222-3700 ext. 239, www.thebreman.org*

05.11 **BRENT STAR:** The rising performer and karaoke host ascends to the stage once again, this time joined by other local talent in a variety show titled 'Unpredictable.' 8:30 p.m. at the Red Light Café, 553 Amsterdam Ave. 404-874-7828, www.redlightcafe.com

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

THU 05.18

AMSTERDAM. All-day Smirnoff martini specials.
BURKHART'S. Kitty LeClaw's 'Meow Mix,' midnight.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag Idol II, 10p.m.
EAGLE. "Blackout Thursday," 10 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Tini Thursdays, martini specials
HALO. 'Boys Night Out' resident DJ Brandon Sutton. Check the DJ booth for occasional CD giveaways.
HERETIC. Rapture with DJ Rick Walsh 10 p.m., no cover.
HOEDOWNS. Ladies Night, Free line dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia with Tom & Jim, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. "Bad Boyz, Bad Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Rotating weekly theme nights.
MODEL T. Karaoke with Johnny P.
OSCARS. Pure energy, pure videos with VJ Das Wright
RED CHAIR. Soulvation with DJ Quasi Mandisco
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2 for 1 at door & VIP rooms
TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. College Night, hottest student bodies and Men of WETbar calendar search, every second and third Thursday, 11 p.m.
WOOFS. Daily Food Specials

FRI 05.19

AMSTERDAM. DJ Van Cronkhite spins, dance floor open at 9 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba and Jeffery, 7:30 p.m., DJ Rob Reum afterwards.
BURKHART'S. The Friday Show with Kitty LeClaw and Mary Edith Pitts,11:30.
CHAPARRAL. Latin Night with DJ Carlos, 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret. 10 p.m.-until. Open 9 p.m.-4 a.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Frisky Friday's-Music and Friends
HERETIC. DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m.
JUNGLE. DV8 Goth Night, 10:30 p.m.
THE LION'S DEN. "Hot Prey Friday's." Hip-Hop and R&B. 10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Nicole Paige Brooks and Girlzz of LeBuzz talent competition, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Boys' Room" with Stewart, 9 p.m.
MODEL T. Divas of Delusion.
OSCARS. Afternoon showtunes. "Martinis, Men & Music Videos," 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. No cover with VJ Rick Farmer
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
TWINKLEDOME. Dress-up and dance to rock, glam, punk and new wave on the third Friday of every month. 9 p.m., $5 cover at Six, 3167 Roswell Road, Atlanta, 404-869-0522, www.twinkledome.com
SWINGING RICHARDS. "2-4-1 T-Shirt Review."
WETbar. Splash Party, no cover.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

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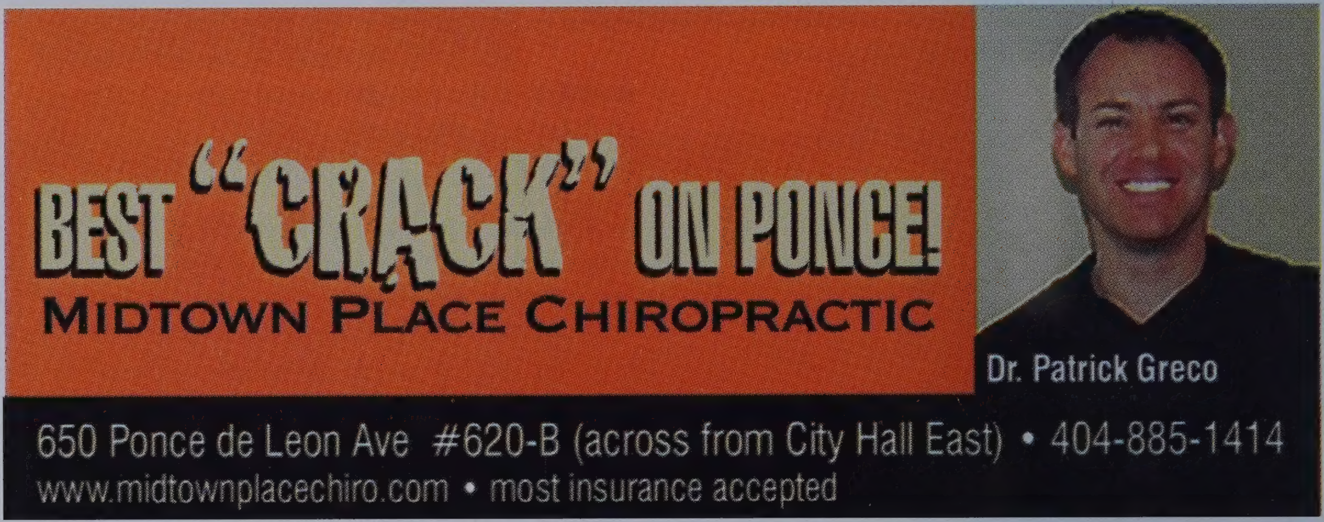
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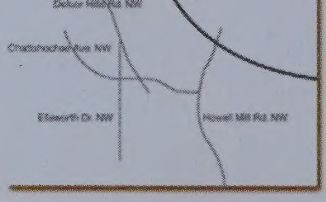
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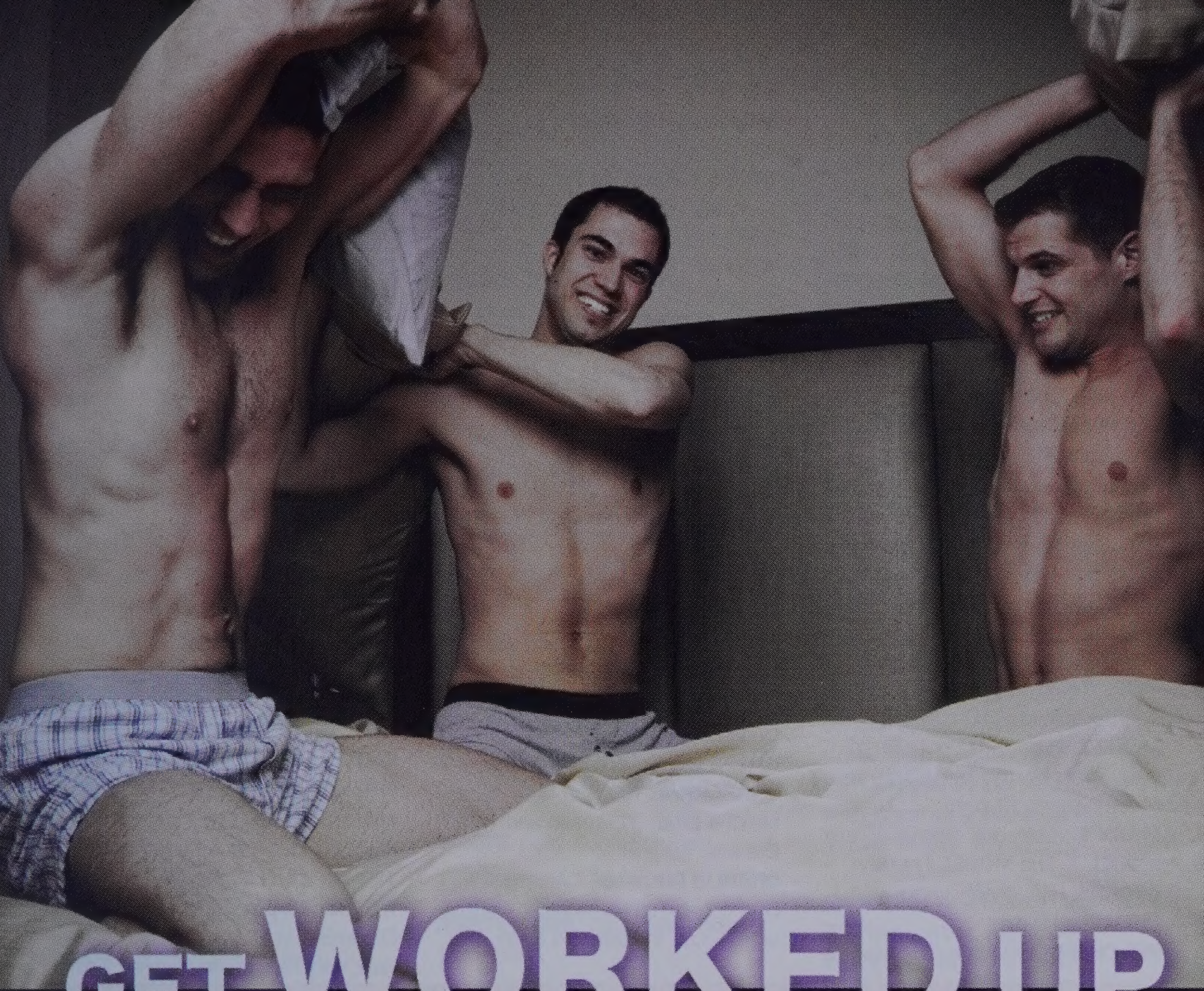

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

SAT 05.20

AMSTERDAM. Dance floor open, 9 p.m.
ATLANTA LIVE. Hip hop night with Traxx.
BLAKES. “Let's Make a Diva Deal” 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. 'Saturday Showcase' with Mary Edith Pitts and Kitty LeClaw, 11:30 p.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret . 10 p.m.-until. Open 9 p.m.-4 a.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Open at 11 a.m., Spring Fling drink specials
HERETIC. DJ Brian Beck at 9 p.m.
HOEDOWNS Free Progressive Two Step lessons, 8 p.m.
JUNGLE. Come Out Dancing, 7:30, Weekly special guest DJs and performers, 10 p.m.
LeBUZZ. “Les Girlzz of LeBuzz” drag show hosted by Tequila Mockingbird, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. “Mary-oke” with CJ, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. The MODEL Tzz Girls.
OSCARS. High energy videos w/VJ Das Wright, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Girls night w/DJ Liz Owens
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRIPPS. 1st and 3rd Saturdays: Linda Michaels' “Showcase Showdown,” 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m
WETBAR. Weekly Submerge party with guest DJ, $10 Cover

SUN 05.21

AMSTERDAM. T-Dance, 6 p.m. with DJ Dave Meyers
BLAKE'S. “Big Time!” drag revue with Shabazz, Jealousé, Myah Monroe, and guests.
BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Armorettes show, 9 p.m., no cover.
CENTRAL PARK CLUB AND BISTRO. Male Exotic Dancers at Midnight K-Rock Productions Presents ‘Freaks of the Industry’ with hosts Busta Love and DJ Gee every first and third Sunday.
CHAPARRAL. Hip Hop Night with Maxine Blue, DJ Smash and The Dreams, 10 p.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret show, midnight. Pouring until 4 a.m. Monday. No cover
CLUB EUROPE. The Lion's Den Presents "Erotic Sunday's." Hip-Hp and R&B. 8 p.m. – 3 a.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. 'Family Reunion BBQ,' 3 p.m.
THE HOUSE. SweetPillow Productions 'Revival' with DJ Russ C, 8 p.m. www.sweetpillow.com
MISS Q'S. Free Pool.
MODEL T. FREE Buffet.
RED CHAIR. Brunch and afternoon delight with disco hits and anthems
STAGE DOOR. T-dance 3-6 p.m., 1st and 3rd Sun.: The Tuckerettes, 2nd and 4th: The Stage Door Divas.

MON 05.22

AMSTERDAM. Industry Night, 9 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Drag on the Edge with Princess Charles. 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Tyler, midnight.
EAGLE. Free pool and rock music.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Free pool, noon to close.
HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.
THE HOUSE. Drag show featuring Charlie Brown, Shawnna Brooks, Ashley Kruiz, Genre and a weekly guest, 1 a.m.

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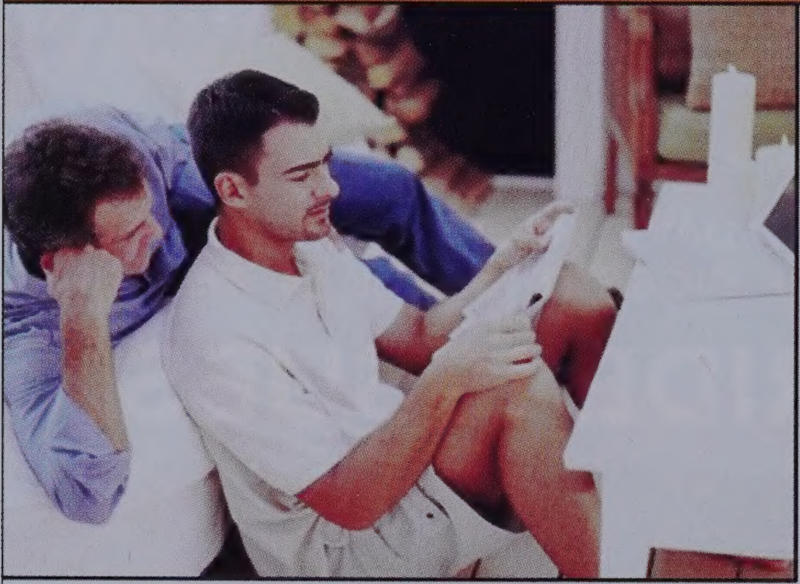

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JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Jim & Baton Bob, 8-10 p.m.
JUNGLE. Salsa dance class, $5, 7-10 p.m. "Stars of the Century" w/Niesha Dupree, 11 p.m. $7 cover.
LeBUZZ. "Lady LeBuzz" drag kings and drag queens show hosted by Heather Daniels, 10 p.m.
MARY'S. "Jump Start" your weekend early with guest DJ's and video game showdowns.
MISS Q'S. Free Pool.
NICKIEMOTO'S. "Dragamaki" w/Bubba D. Licious, 8:45 p.m.
OSCARS. Service Industry Night with VJ Chris Allen, 9 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Coming Out, Coming Alive Workshop every second and fourth Monday, 7 p.m.
WOOFS. Texas Hold-Em. No entry fee, prizes and more.

TUE 05.23

AMSTERDAM. Showtunes, 9 p.m.
ATLANTA LIVE. Traxx's Thugged Out Tuesdays'
BJ'S ROOSTER'S. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Family" Feud w/Mary Edith Pitts, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CHAPPARAL. Bad Boys with Savannah Leigh, Nicole Paige brooks and Mia, 10 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool, rock music.Open 8 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Tini Tuesdays, martini specials
HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Free beginner Two Step, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Tom & Jim, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke with Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
MODEL T. "069 Bingo" with Ken and Draft beer specials.
OSCAR'S. Home of "Atlanta's Original Showtunes Tuesdays," 9 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Texas Hold 'Em, 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. $5 Cover 8pm.
WOOFS Daily Food Specials.

WED 05.24

AMSTERDAM. All-day Long Island Tea specials.
BLAKE'S. "Brain Freeze" trivia w/Ruby Redd, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
FELIX'S. Jackpot Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Hump Day Party, music and fun.
HERETIC. Boys Night Out Dress Code Party with DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m., no cover
HOEDOWNS. Free Dance Lessons, 8 p.m.
JUNGLE. Southern line dancing, 7-9 p.m. and Guest performers, DJs and bartenders for the weekly Backdoor Party, 10 p.m.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Video request night.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
OSCARS. Comedy night with VJ Chris Allen, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Dinner and a movie with Brent Star Karaoke
STAGE DOOR. Trivia, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. $5 - 8pm.
WETbar. Ladies' Night Out.
WOOFS Trivia Night, 8 p.m.

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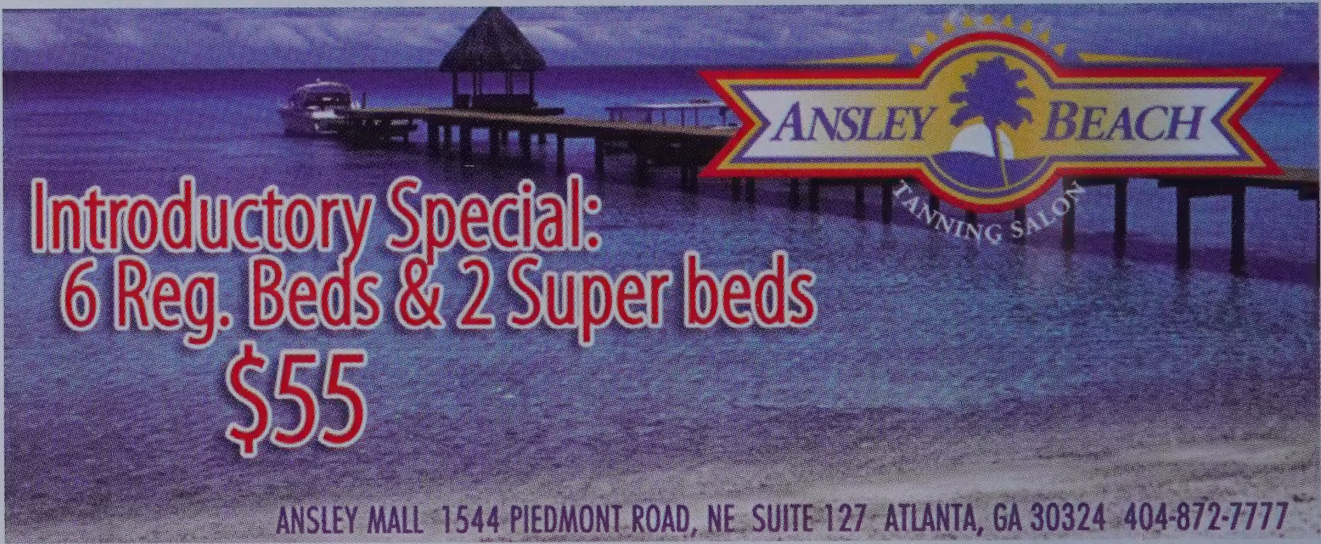

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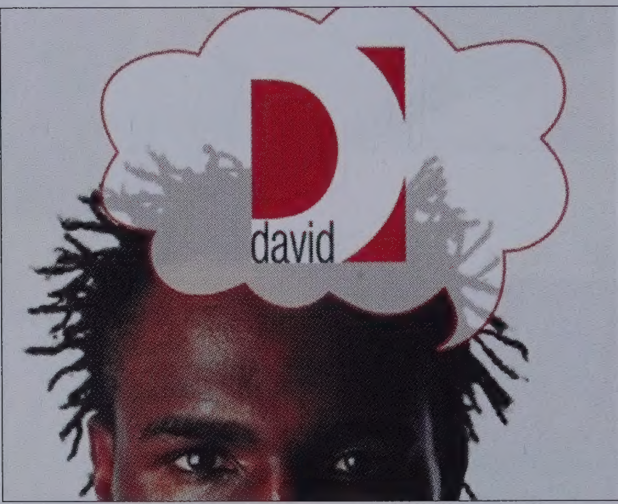

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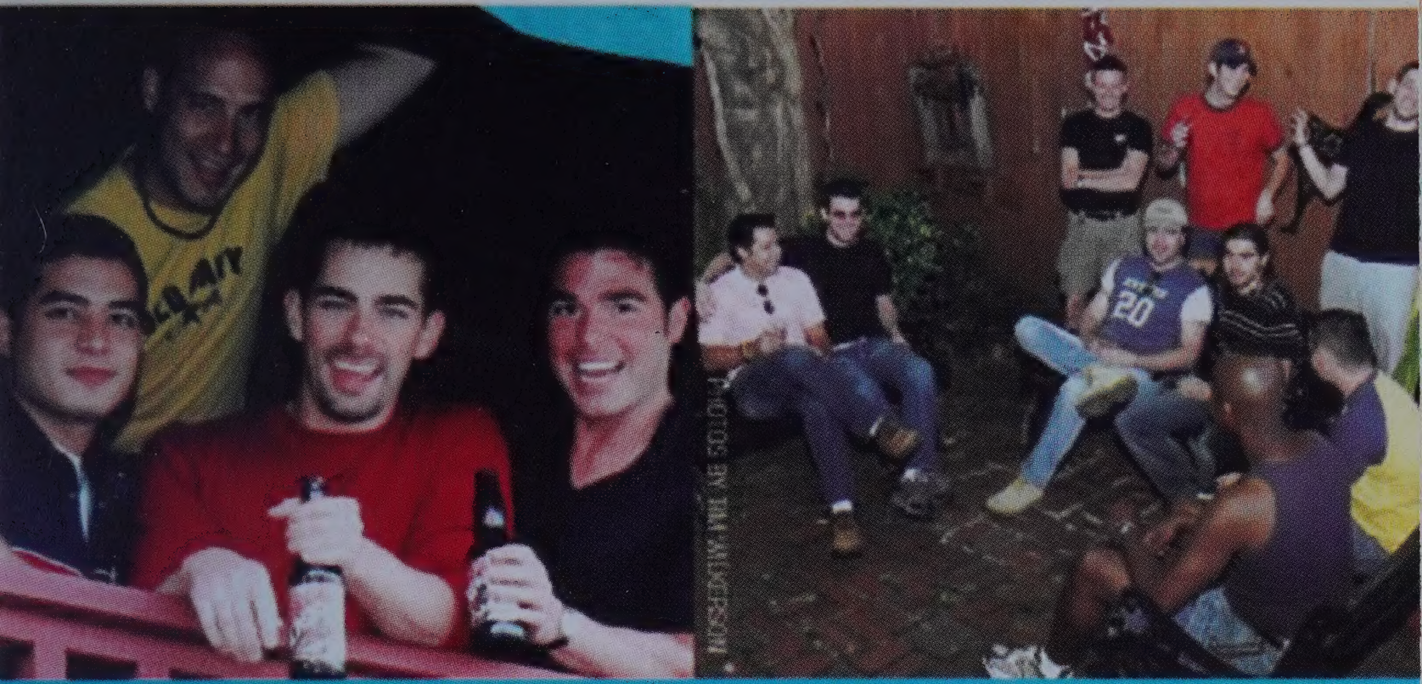
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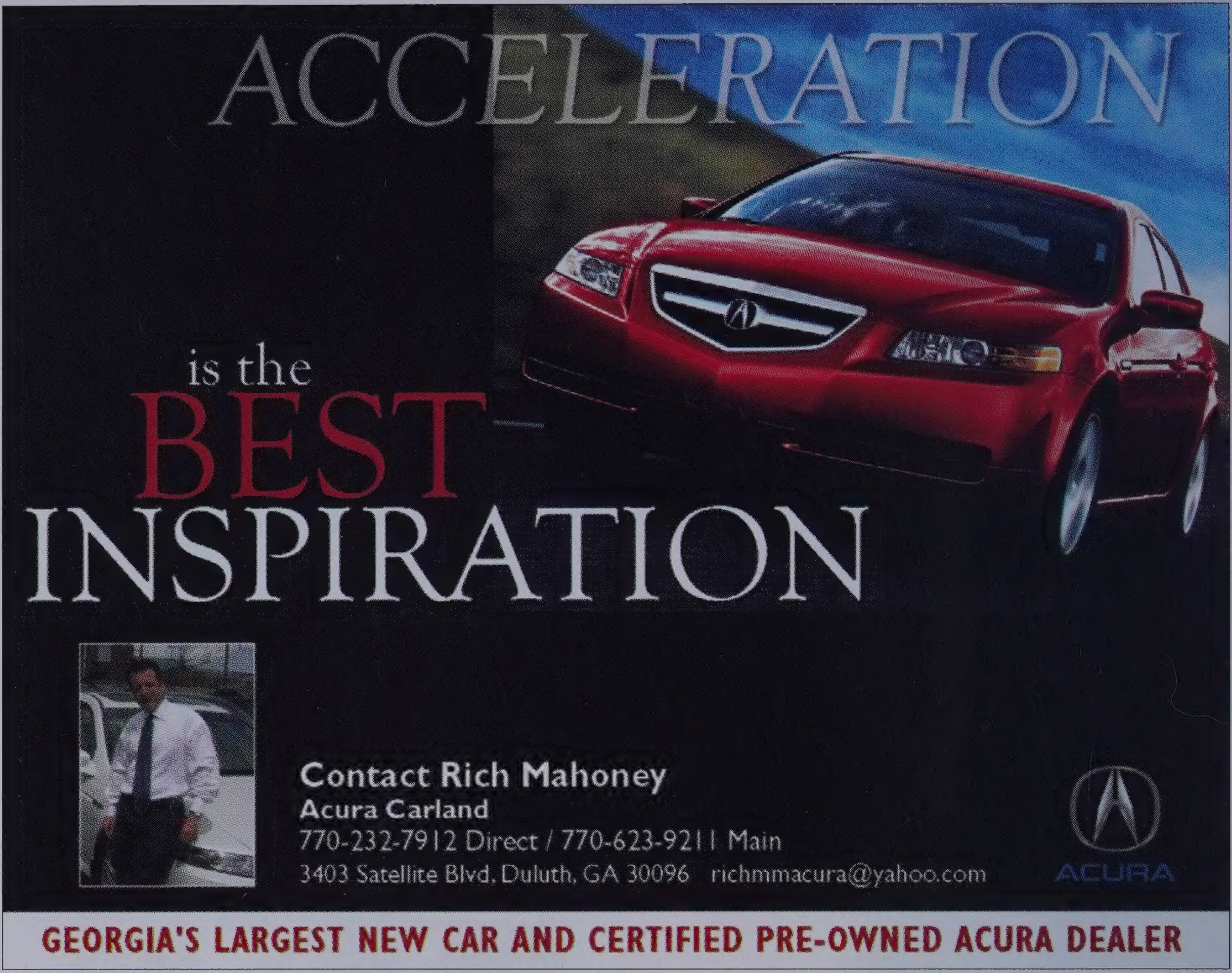

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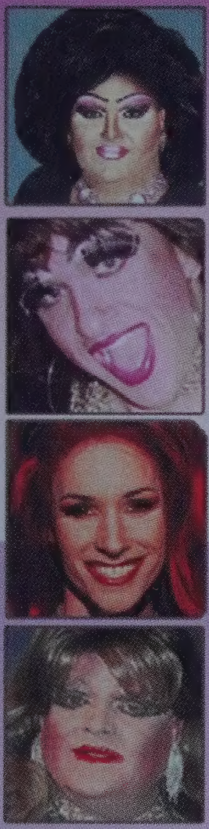

TUESDAY. **Karaoke** with Karaoke Contest Last Tuesday, Monthly

WEDNESDAY. **THEME NIGHT** Drag Show with **Drag Queens & Drag Kings**

THURSDAY. **Bad Boy'z & Babe'z of LeBuzz** hosted by **Juwanna Doome** and King Cast Drag King Talent Contest last Thursday of each month.

FRIDAY. **Les Girlzz of LeBuzz** hosted by **Nicole Paige Brooks** and Angelica Diamante. Last Friday of each month: Amateur Drag Talent Contest

SATURDAY. **Les Girlzz of LeBuzz** with **Tequila Mockingbird**

LEBUZZ PRIDE PARADE FLOAT CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, MAY 20TH

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11PM Les Girlzz of LeBuzz Show

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BY RYAN LEE

DOES ANYONE KNOW CPR?

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A LITTLE KNOWN FACT ABOUT THE MAKING the Rounds boys is that a couple of us used to be lifeguards, patrolling the poolside in our coochie-cutter swim trunks. All of the straight lifeguards used to moan and groan about having to wear what could be considered men's lingerie, but of course we loved the way the trunks highlighted our attributes.

Thank God none of the guys who participated in the **Soaking Wet Swimwear Fashion Show** at **Compound** ever came near our pools when we were still guarding. Let's just say there might have been a day camper or two floating facedown on account of our distraction.

The beautiful **Nicole Paige Brooks** was elegant and feisty as MC, introducing hunk after hunk in form-fitting swimwear provided by **Boy Next Door**, **Universal Gear** and **Poster Hut**.

For the modest, there were also a couple of party-poopers who brought out the bloomers. But most of the models had their cheeks and jewels tightly cuddled by their trunks. By far our favorite was the leather daddy from Poster Hut, who started his walk wrapped in the blue-and-black Leather Pride flag, and ended it by giving Nicole Paige Brooks a quick flash of ass - some girls get all the luck!

WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE NICOLE LUV DUPREE, MISS BLAKE'S 2006

The show was produced by **Brady Henderson**, who was generous enough to buy a round of drinks for the house. Also spotted in the crowd was **Richie Arpino** snapping what are sure to be masterpiece shots of the models, and **RC Searfoss** and **Will Wenke**, the Ovah Productions boys whose picture you see when you look up "party" in the dictionary.

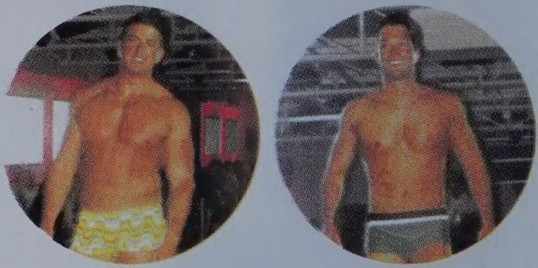
WE ALSO SAW THE OVAH GUYS GRABBING A little unintentional camera time at the **Miss Blake's on the Park Pageant 2006**, which was hosted by the divine **Mr. Charlie Brown** and vivacious **Ruby Redd**.

Before the seven contestants for the title took the Hollywood glam-themed stage, **Myah Monroe** reminded everybody why she captured the crown last year. Miss Monroe helped everyone in the bar lose 10 pounds with her dynamic performance, which included a series of nut-busting, jaw-dropping splits.

At the judge's table, we saw former America's Next Top Model contestant **Anna Bradfield** wishing she had Myah's moves, but she was still looking sexy. Her fellow jurors included **Lena Lust** from **Charlie Brown's Cabaret**, **Brad Williams** from Jungle, the always-loveable **Mary Edith Pitts**, **Bobby Hamill** of **B.J.'s Roosters** and the lovely **Lady Niesha Dupree**.

Judging this showcase was an unenviable duty, because all of these girls captured our hearts. **Ashley Kruiz** performed her adrenaline-pumping Patsy Cline-Annie Lennox routine, and Paula Sinclair made us nostalgic for the days when drag queens weren't afraid to be sophisticated.

We liked **Drag Idol II** veterans **Destiny Brooks** and **Sassy Monroe**, we forgive **Summer Knight** for doing Dolly Parton in a jet-black wig, and of course we loved **Amailia Black** reppin' my hometown of Chicago. But when all was said and done, the one left standing was **Nicole Luv Dupree**, who clinched the title with her crowd-rousing rendition of Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You."



LOOKING FOR LOVE POOLSIDE

WE THOUGHT THERE WAS NOTHING BETTER than spending other people's money, but it turns out there's nothing better than gambling with other people's money.

That's essentially the set up at Texas Hold 'Em Mondays at **Woof's**, where the gay sports bar spots you chips and turns you loose on the table. As is becoming the pattern, one of the Making the Rounds boys lost all his chips before the second hand was dealt, while yours truly managed to make it through two hours of play until somebody finally hit the target on my back.

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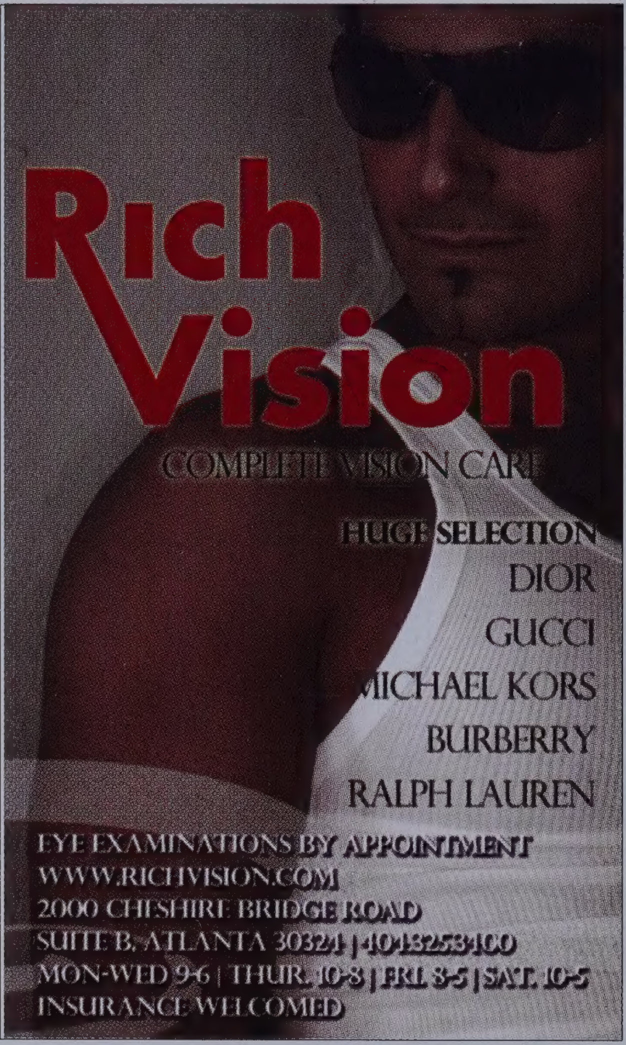
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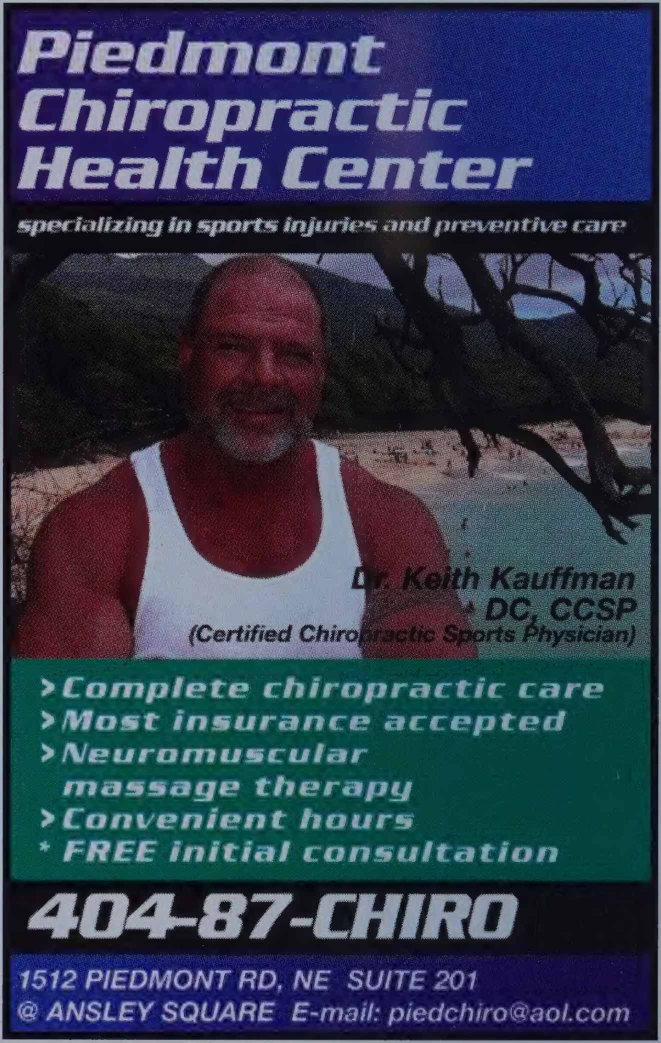
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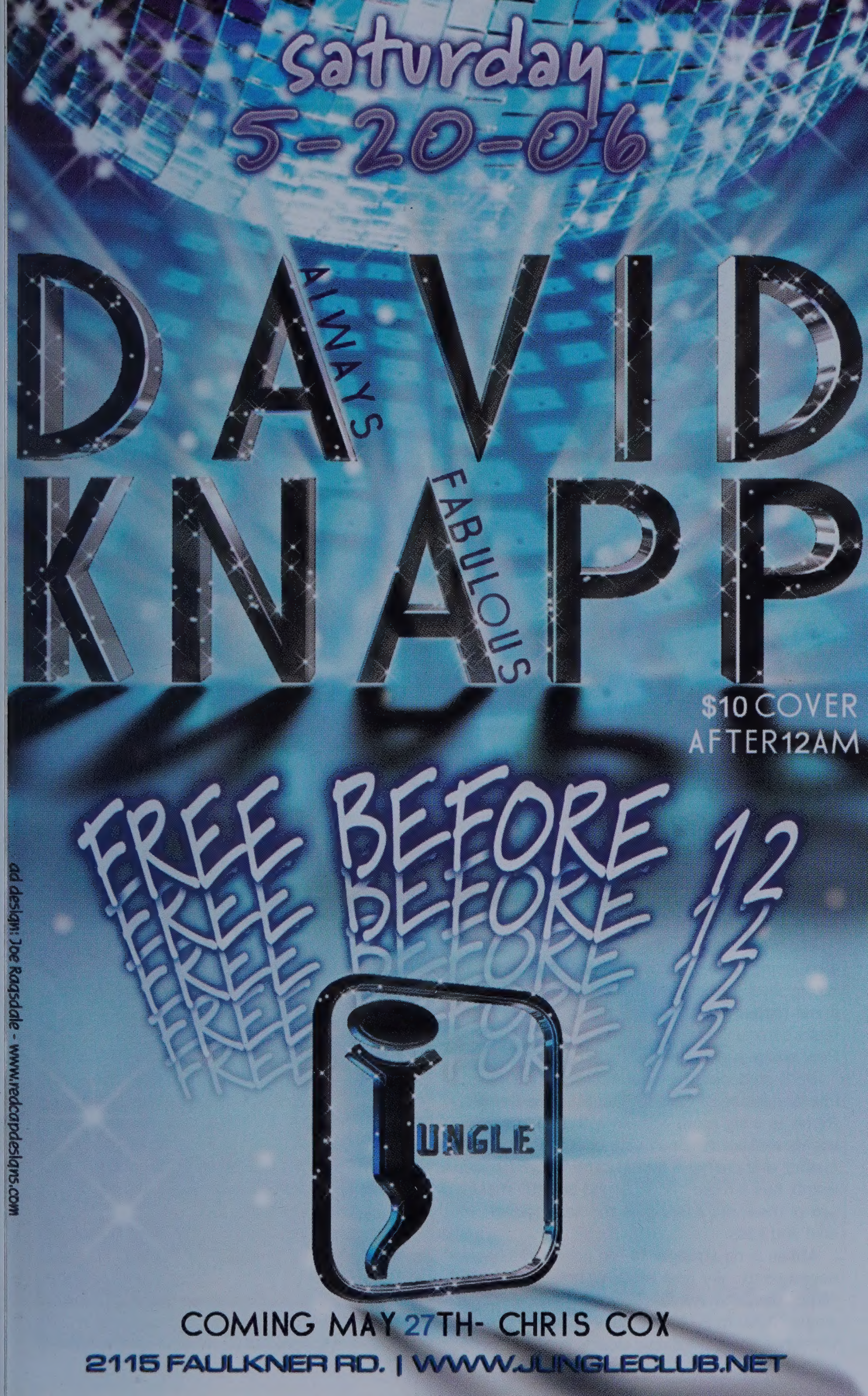

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BY BUCK C. COOKE

she's AMAZIN'

Christina Milian drops Hollywood (momentarily) to drop new CD

TWO YEARS AND SEVERAL FILM ROLES AFTER her last big hit, Christina Milian returns to the music spotlight with "So Amazin'," a hip-hop-oriented follow-up to 2004's "It's About Time."

The lead single from "So Amazin'" is "Say I," a bouncing track quickly climbing the charts. Young Jeezy represents the dirty South as a guest rapper, but thankfully his vocals are not featured prominently in the dance remixes by Hani and Maurice Joshua.

Both producers turn out kick-ass, floor-filling interpretations of "Say I." The Maurice Say Mo Remix is a big room anthem with Milian's vocals wafting over pumping beats, driving synths, and dramatic strings. The Hani Extended Remix has a more circuit sound but still makes use of the strings that give the song lots of soul and sass.

Milian is no stranger to the power of a hot dance remix. Her past smoking-hot remixes, "Dip It Low," "Whatever You Want," and her debut single "A.M. to P.M.," all packed the homos on the dance floors like circus clowns in a VW Beetle.

With "A.M. to P.M.," Milian could just as easily have gone down the path of so many one-hit wonders. Thankfully, she was made of sterner stuff. Milian is also a fairly accomplished songwriter. In addition to co-writing almost half of the material on her new album, Milian wrote "A.M. to P.M." and "Play," which was recorded by Jennifer Lopez.

MILIAN IS A TRIPLE-THREAT IN THE TRADITION of stars from Hollywood's Golden Age. She sings, she dances, and she acts. Her next film opens in July. "Pulse" is a remake of the Japanese horror/mystery thriller "Kairo." Milian has also starred with John Travolta, Uma Thurman, Tommy Lee Jones, Ice Cube, Dane Cook, and ex-boyfriend Nick Cannon.

The sexy talent took a break from Hollywood to work on "So Amazin'."

"I was so committed to this project, making it my number one priority," she says. "It was important that I be focused on music, so while I was working I passed on other films and reading

CHRISTINA MILIAN
So AMAZIN'

scripts. It was more important that I make a hot album."

"So Amazin'" is produced by Cool and Dre.

"I knew from the beginning when I started working with Cool and Dre that I had found something special," she says. "Our relationship was so smooth, Cool and Dre ended up producing the entire record, something that is rare these days."

Shortly after the completion of the album, Milian and Dre began dating.

The title track features Dre and holds a special place for Milian.

"I think this is the sexiest song on the record," she says.

The track has an undeniable be-bop feel and is highly infectious, so consider yourself warned.

Academy Award-winning rap act Three 6 Mafia lend their Midas touch to "Who's Gonna Ride" after fate took a hand when Dre ran into Three 6 Mafia in the hallway. The song is the perfect head-nodding track for driving through Atlanta.

"Gonna Tell Everybody" is a smooth therapy session as Milian processes the end of her last relationship.

"When it came time for me to work on my third album, I knew that I needed to record material that had a realness," Milian explains. "I still wanted to make dance tracks, but I also needed to express more of myself at that time."

"So Amazin'" does more than give listeners some new, hot tracks. The CD gives fans a chance to know Milian better as she grows and matures as a woman and an artist.

With a good head on her shoulders and a voice that is prime for radio airplay, Milian should be around for quite some time.

'So Amazin'' is available on Island/Def Jam Records. www.christinamilian.com. Support gay-owned Outwrite and Brushstrokes, and see if they can get you your copy.

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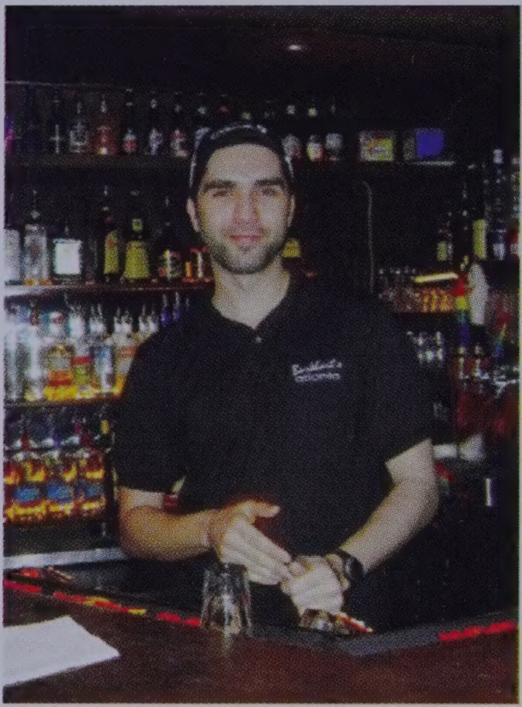

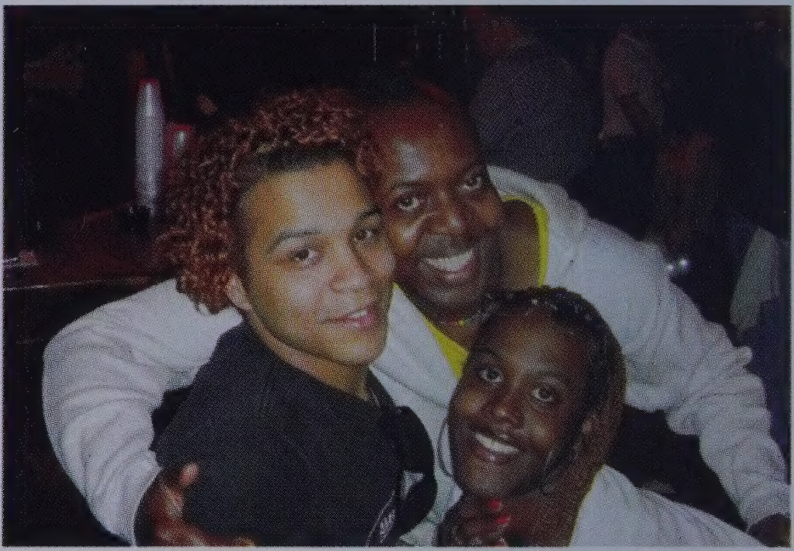

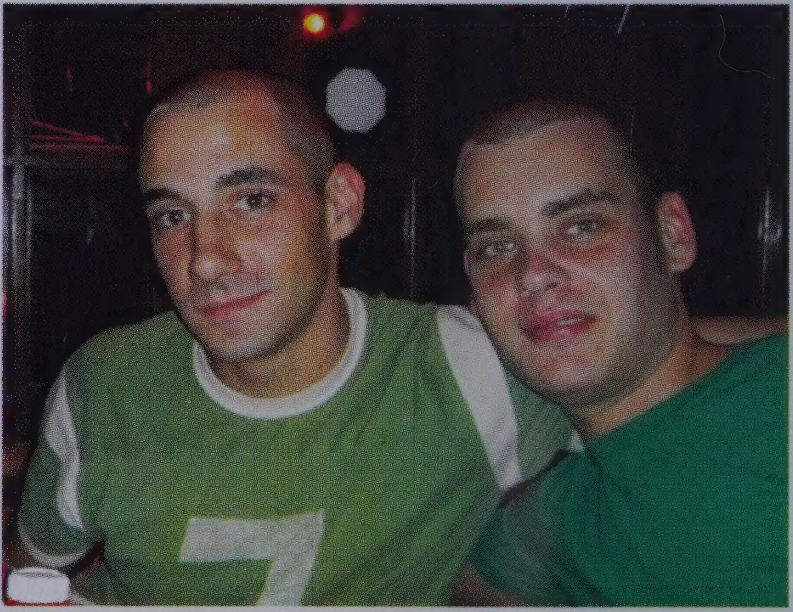

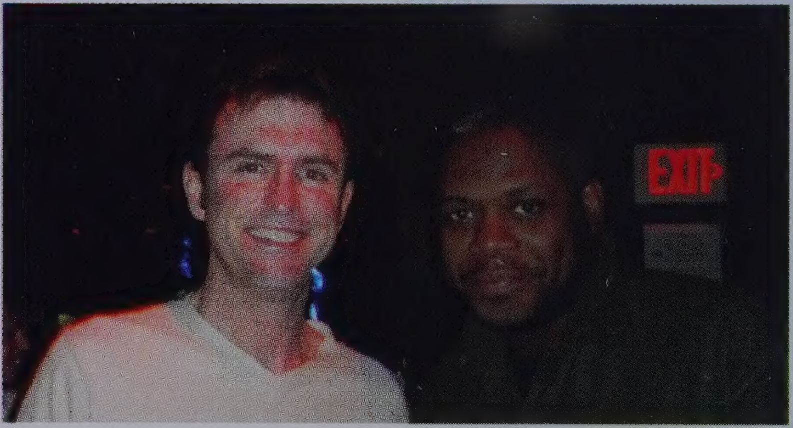

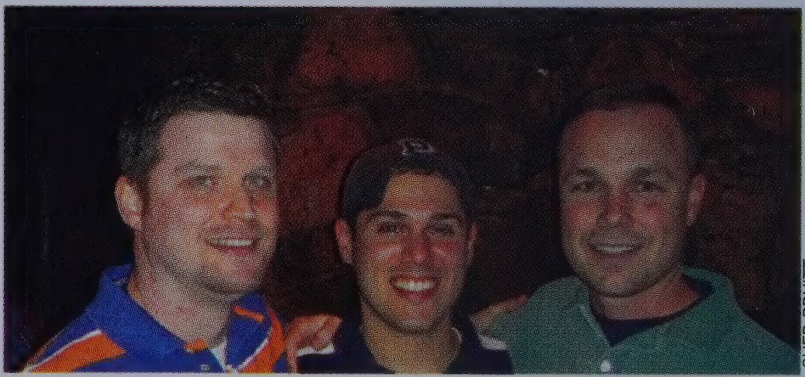

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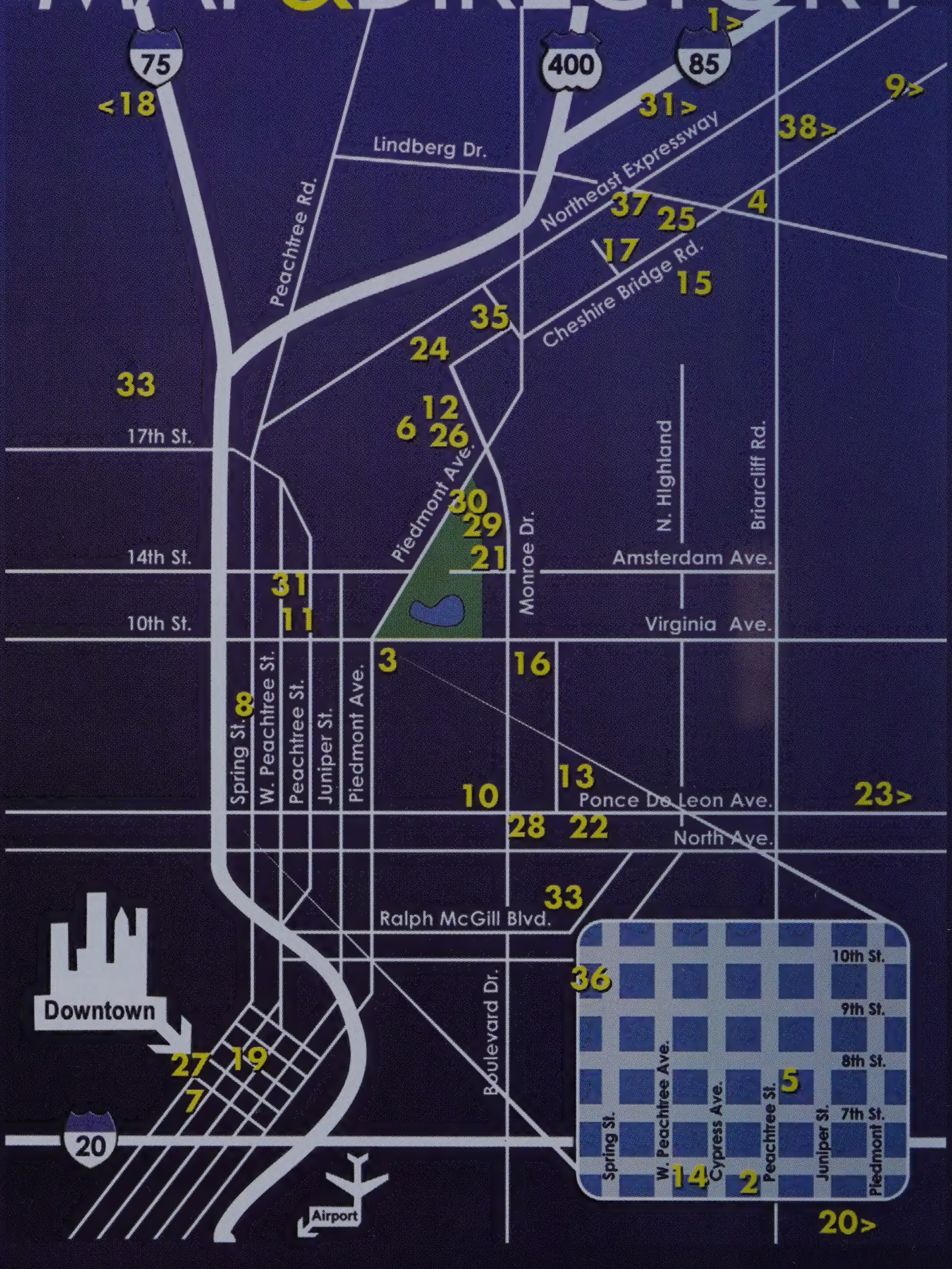
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BY GREGG SHAPIRO

Speaking for herself

Imogen Heap hits Atlanta with synths and laptop in tow

ON "SPEAK FOR YOURSELF" (RCA/MEGAPHONIC), Imogen Heap, returns as a solo artist for the first time in a few years. After making her debut as a solo artist in the late nineties, she spent some time as half of the electro-duo Frou Frou.

Ms. Heap, who comes to Variety Playhouse on May 19, has much she wants to say, and does so in new and fresh musical ways.

David spoke with her as she embarked on the tour.

***David:* You really took off in the late 90's with "I Megaphone." What were you doing before then?**

Imogen Heap: I was trying to find some kind of direction, and at eighteen I was very directionless. I did a few collaborations, ... then I started working on my record when I was 18 or 19.

But previous to that, I basically have always studied music; music has always been right at the forefront of my life. ...

I don't remember not playing the piano, so I must have learned before memories start to form.

A few years went by after your debut, and you recorded the Frou Frou disc with Guy Sigsworth. How did the idea for Frou Frou come about?

It just kind of happened, really. There wasn't any discussion or anything like that, it was just that we'd both fallen out with our previous record companies. We were both feeling a bit down about everything. ...

So he rung me up and said "Listen I'm in my studio, I actually live just down the road from you now" and I was like "Oh cool, let's get together because I'm so angry with everything and I don't want to do anything."

So he kind of inspired me to get out of the house and do some music for a change.

"Let Go," a song from Frou Frou, was heard in the movie "Garden State," and some of your other work shows up in other movies and on TV. Do you like the experience of hearing your music out of context?

I think it's really important in this day and age when radio rules the roost so much, to have this other medium which is being explored much more than it ever was, for song placement. It gives people like me who maybe don't get on daytime radio the chance to have this other channel to get music into peoples' ears.

So now you return as a solo artist. Does the new disc blend your earlier solo stuff with the work you did with Frou Frou?

I hope so. ... A lot of people who loved "I Megaphone" really didn't like Frou Frou, and some people who liked Frou Frou didn't necessarily like "I Megaphone." ...

But I feel like I've kind of conquered all now because there seems to be a kind of general love for this record from both sets of fans. I didn't engineer that or think about it, but I guess it just naturally happens.

"Hide and Seek," one of the songs on "The OC," is really kind of an unlikely hit. When this song

IMOGEN HEAP
speak for yourself

was created, did you envision it being done with vocoder, or did you sit down and create it first at the piano?

Basically, this song started and ended exactly the way it sounds. There was never any piano, or any question of something else musically that should go into it. ...

That whole song happened basically in the space of four minutes, all the harmony and all the melody, all the breaths and about 40 percent of the lyrics all just spontaneously crawled out of me.

Are you going to be doing the club remixes for "Hide and Seek"?

One has been officially done. ... I've received about forty remixes from people. Just fans going, "Oh, I had to remix it!" Everything from a fan doing a full-on house remix to somebody putting an electric bass under it going, "There, it's finished now! You've got the electric bass, that's what it needed."

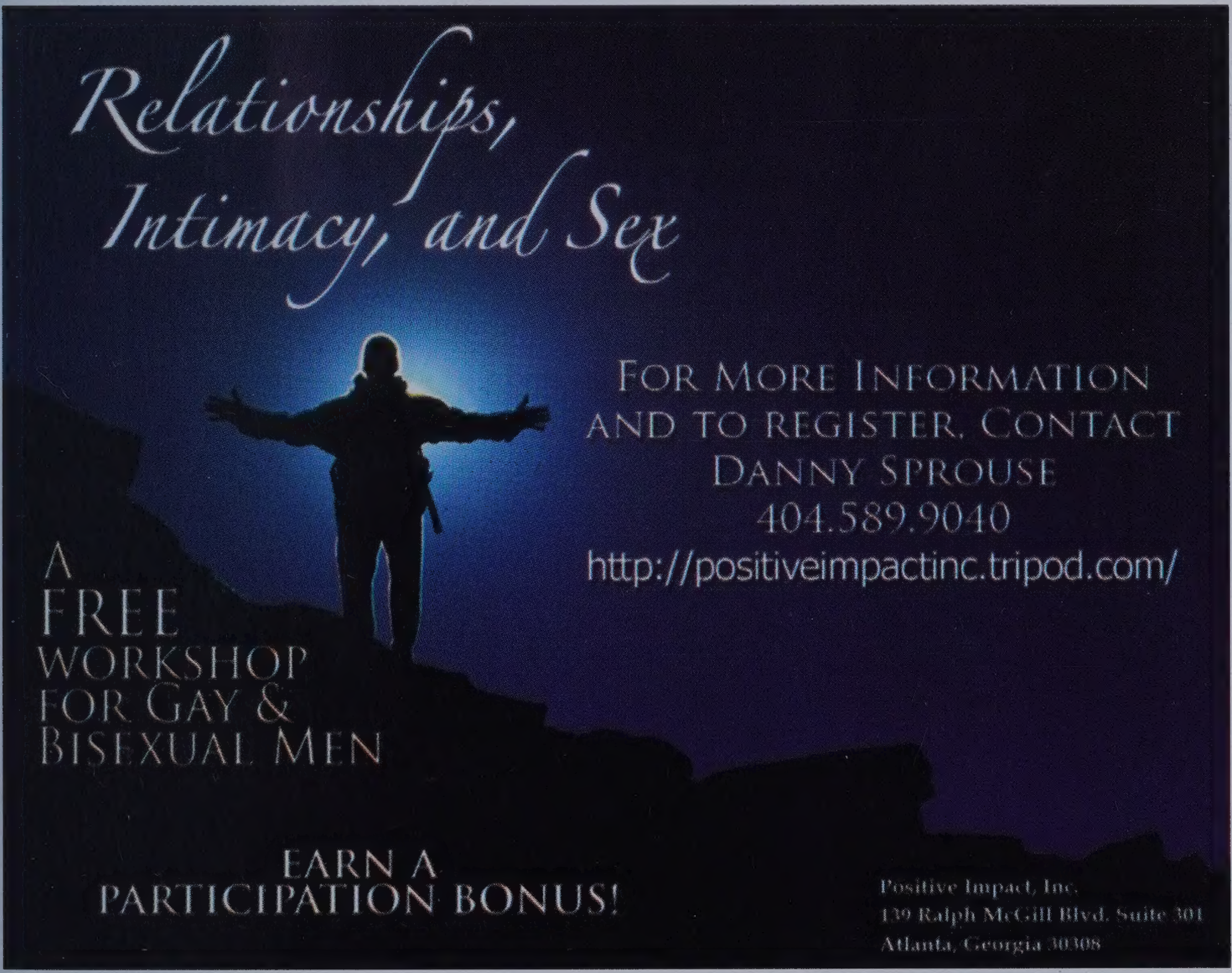
I knew that people were going to remix it wherever, so I thought I might as well just do one I'm happy with.

You already have a considerable queer following, but club mixes will certainly guarantee you more of that. Are you aware of that following, even without remixes?

Yes, I certainly am, because I have met many, many different gay friends. When I was in specifically San Francisco, I think about half the audience was gay, and it was a great show. I really enjoyed it, and actually went off to quite a few gay bars afterward.

I can't answer the question of why my music seems to appeal to a gay audience, but I'm very grateful that it does.

Imogene Heap appears May 19 at the Variety Playhouse at 8:30 p.m., 1099 Euclid Ave. 404-542-7354. www.variety-playhouse.com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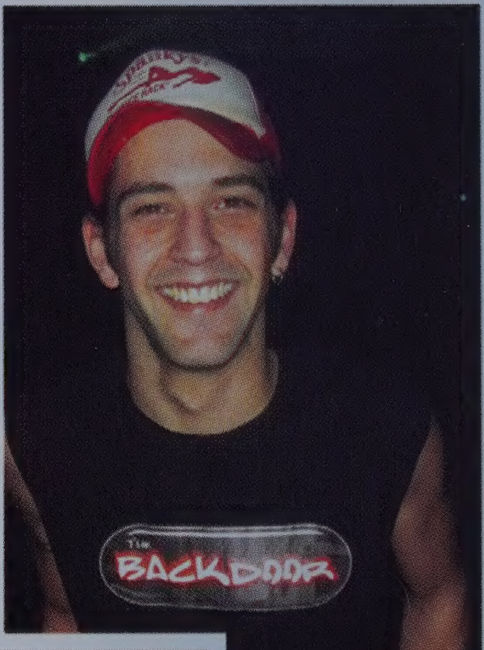
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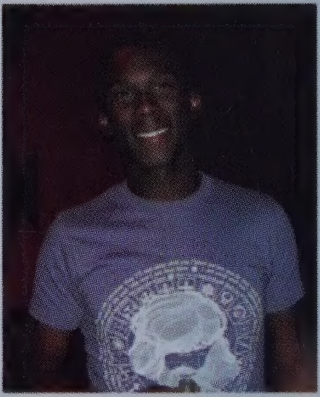

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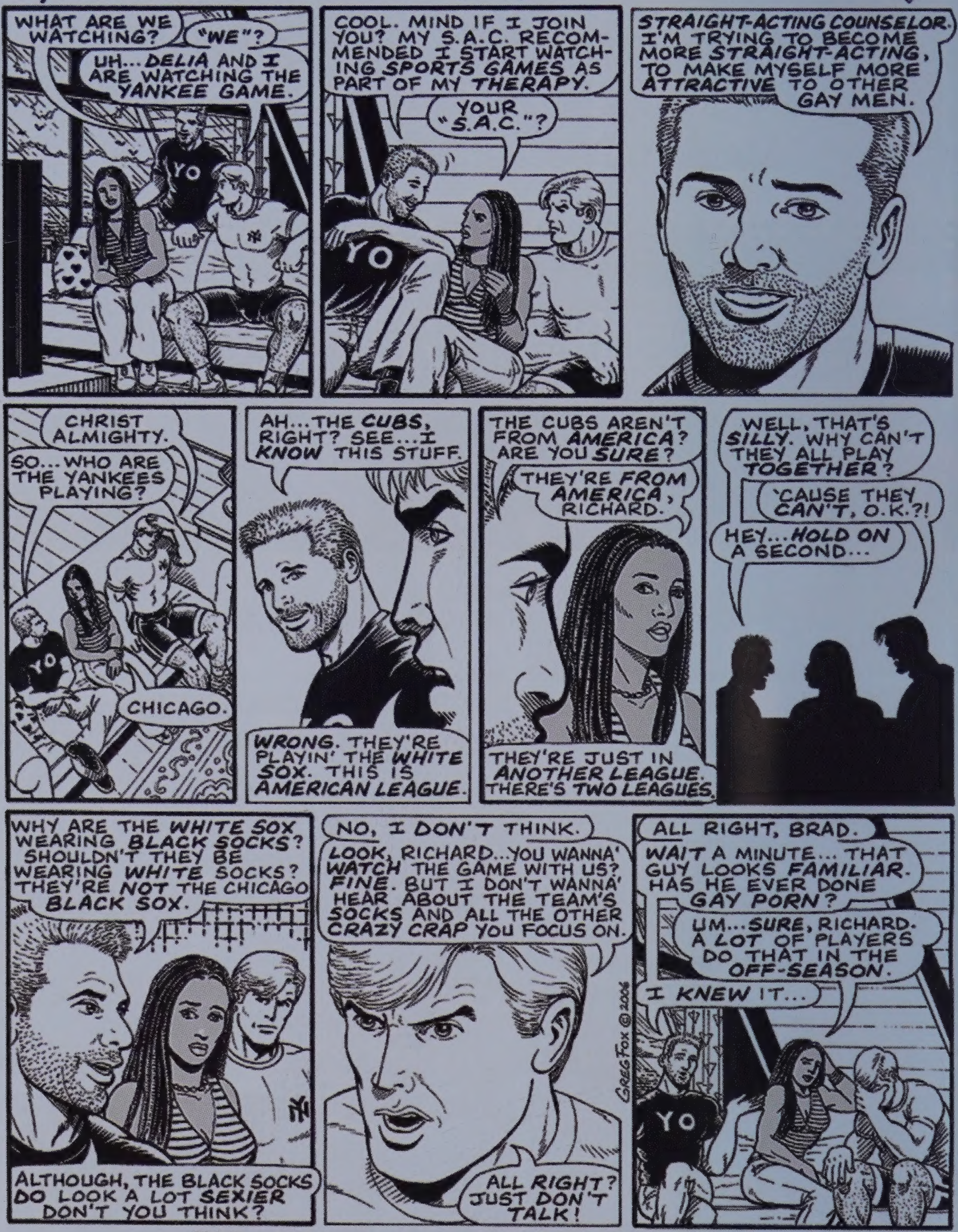
WHAT ARE WE WATCHING?
"WE"?
UH... DELIA AND I ARE WATCHING THE YANKEE GAME.
YO
COOL. MIND IF I JOIN YOU? MY S.A.C. RECOMMENDED I START WATCHING SPORTS GAMES AS PART OF MY THERAPY.
YOUR "S.A.C."?
STRAIGHT-ACTING COUNSELOR. I'M TRYING TO BECOME MORE STRAIGHT-ACTING, TO MAKE MYSELF MORE ATTRACTIVE TO OTHER GAY MEN.
CHRIST ALMIGHTY.
SO... WHO ARE THE YANKEES PLAYING?
CHICAGO.
AH... THE CUBS, RIGHT? SEE... I KNOW THIS STUFF.
WRONG. THEY'RE PLAYIN' THE WHITE SOX. THIS IS AMERICAN LEAGUE.
THE CUBS AREN'T FROM AMERICA? ARE YOU SURE?
THEY'RE FROM AMERICA, RICHARD.
THEY'RE JUST IN ANOTHER LEAGUE. THERE'S TWO LEAGUES.
WELL, THAT'S SILLY. WHY CAN'T THEY ALL PLAY TOGETHER?
'CAUSE THEY CAN'T, O.K.?!
HEY... HOLD ON A SECOND...
WHY ARE THE WHITE SOX WEARING BLACK SOCKS? SHOULDN'T THEY BE WEARING WHITE SOCKS? THEY'RE NOT THE CHICAGO BLACK SOX.
ALTHOUGH, THE BLACK SOCKS DO LOOK A LOT SEXIER DON'T YOU THINK?
NO, I DON'T THINK.
LOOK, RICHARD... YOU WANNA' WATCH THE GAME WITH US? FINE. BUT I DON'T WANNA' HEAR ABOUT THE TEAM'S SOCKS AND ALL THE OTHER CRAZY CRAP YOU FOCUS ON.
ALL RIGHT? JUST DON'T TALK!
GREG FOX © 2006
ALL RIGHT, BRAD.
WAIT A MINUTE... THAT GUY LOOKS FAMILIAR. HAS HE EVER DONE GAY PORN?
UM... SURE, RICHARD. A LOT OF PLAYERS DO THAT IN THE OFF-SEASON.
I KNEW IT...
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NEED WOOD?

BY WOODY M

Post-traumatic SEX SYNDROME

Why fights are **so damn hot**, and how intimacy makes him better than your hand.

HEY WOODY!

My boyfriend and I fight like cats and dogs all the time - then we have mattress-burning sex. I can't help but feel like we've sort of "trained" ourselves to fight so that we can have a better love life.

It's like the only way we reach sexual heaven is to fight like hell. There's gotta be a better way!

- FIGHT-FATIGUED

DEAR FATIGUED:

The reason after-fight sex is so great is because yelling and screaming gets your blood pumping, the adrenaline rushing and the dopamine firing - all key ingredients to great sex.

Some couples unconsciously use fighting as a form of foreplay. Pick a fight, and the bed creaks louder. The problem is that over time, this fight-before-fuck mentality destroys the intimate bond between people.

To break the cycle, you've got to A) make a commitment not to have sex within 48 hours after a fight, and B) Replace the rush without the stress.

One way is to develop a risk-taking mentality that raises your blood pressure. Engage in some playful exhibitionism. Try to put your hands down his pants in public without other people knowing. Fondle his crotch with your feet at a stuffy dinner. Or role-play and trade fantasies that give you the high without the hell.

HEY WOODY!

I'm in a kind of circular bind here. My boyfriend tries to arouse me by feeling me up, but I'm like, I don't want to be felt up until I'm aroused.

So he's in a Catch-22: There's no point in touching me until I'm aroused, but I'm not aroused until he touches me. I love my boyfriend, and I really do see his point. I just don't see a way out. Help!

– WANTING BUT NOT WILLING

DEAR WANTING:

OK, we're getting into chick territory here, but yours is actually a common problem among long-term male couples. Some guys with perfectly normal libidos get turned off when they think their partner is only having sex at the physical/biological level. In your subconscious mind, nothing is going to get pumped until the emotional well gets pumped.

I suspect if he touched you more non-genitally, in and out of bed, and if he cultivated a sense of erotic connection, your thighs would be more willing to separate.

Gay "chicks" like you want the emphasis on intimacy. That's why no matter how good your boyfriend may be in bed, he won't be able to consistently arouse you.

Technique is not nearly as effective in creating intense sexual excitement as "erotic intimacy." If you felt more emotionally connected to your boyfriend, he wouldn't even need to touch you to get you aroused.

Good sex requires more than hitting the right hot spots. Example: both the anus and perineum are loaded with nerve endings. Stimulation of these areas is powerfully erotic for some men and powerfully repulsive to others.

So how can two people with the same number of nerve endings have such wildly different reactions? It's the meaning they assign to those areas. Some guys think anal play is "dirty;" others think it's hot.

My point: When it comes to sex, the mind matters more than the body.

Masters and Johnson proved long ago that self-stimulated orgasms are stronger than partner-stimulated orgasms. So why is it that most people prefer sex with another person? Because there's more to sexual fulfillment than physiologically intense orgasms.

Bottom line: You guys need to build more trust, engage each other more fully and connect to each other more emotionally. Chick stuff, I know, but it works.

Woody is the author of 'Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon.' Reach him at needwood@mac.com.

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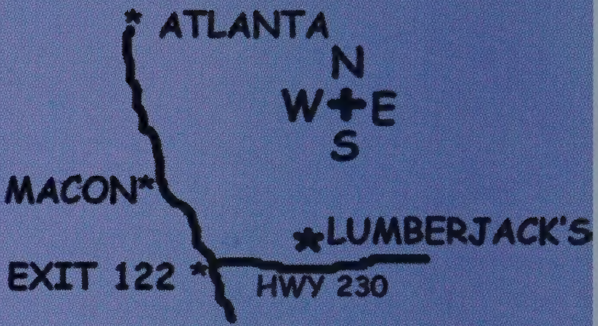

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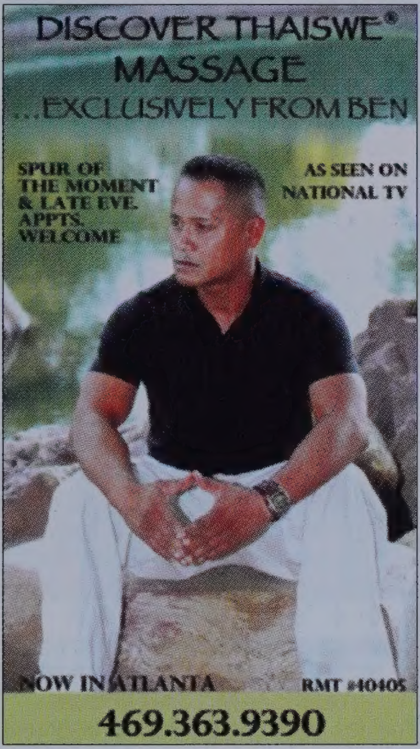

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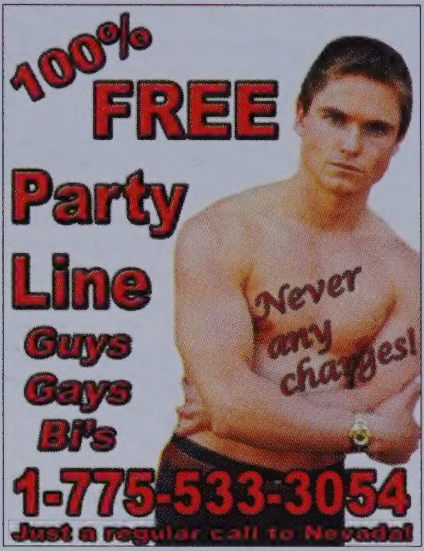

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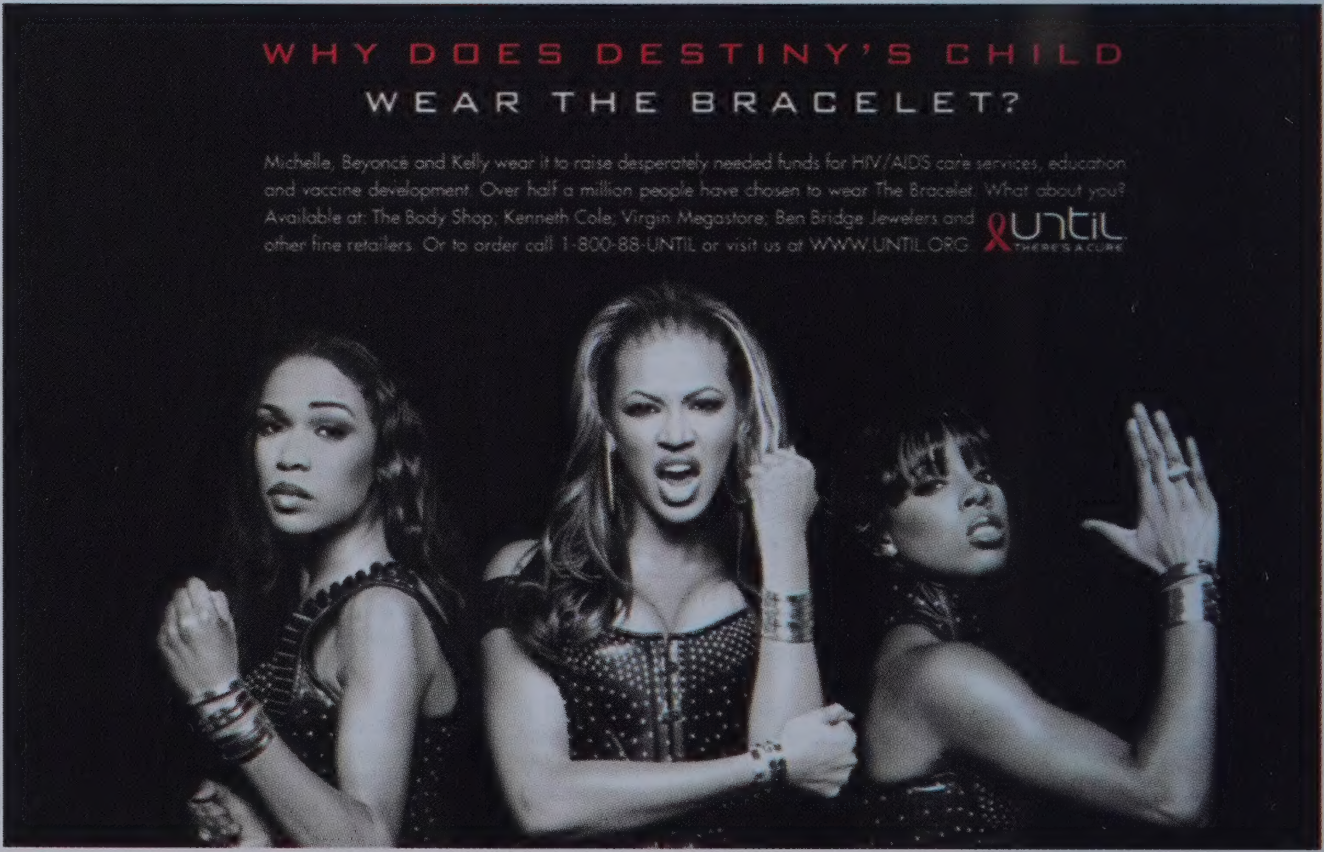

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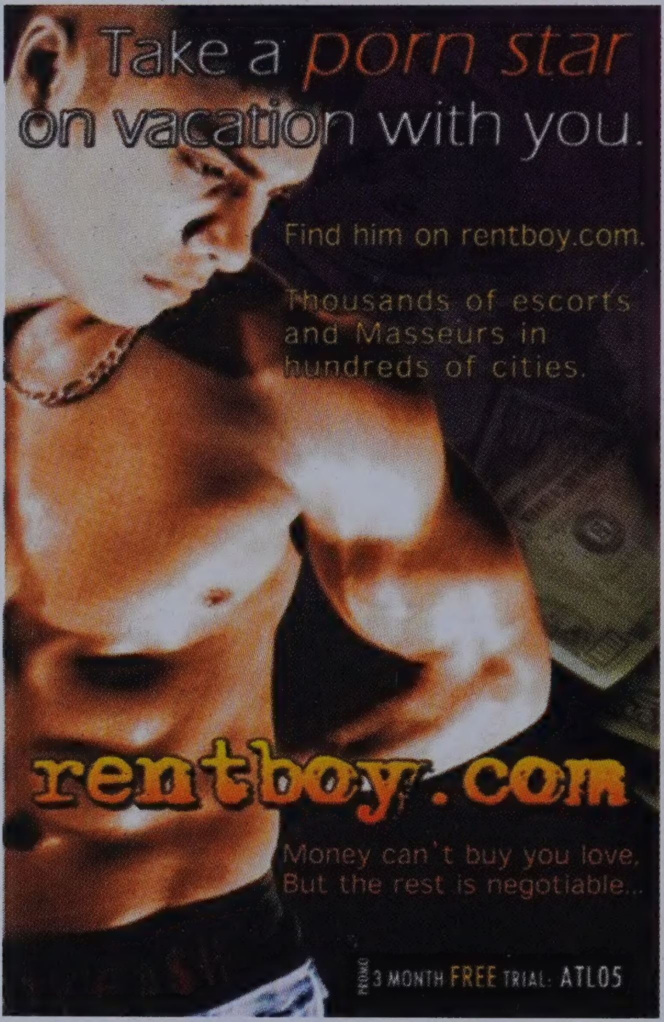

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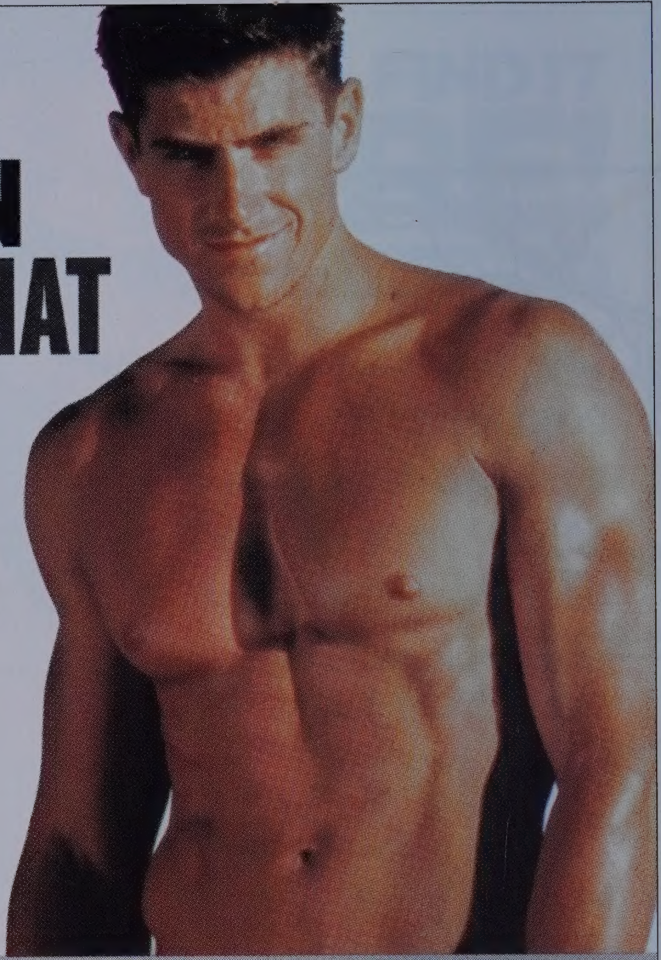

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BITCHSESSION

My privates are tucked away in clean underwear; that's why I wash my hands before I pee.

The correct answer to, "Is it in yet?" is: "It must be. I just got pulled over for entering the carpool lane."

> ‘Sissy liberals’ made it possible for your right-wing ass to openly enjoy life as a gay man in America!

"Bitch Session" is the best part of this rag. Your words make me rethink and change my points of view. And nowadays, finding someone able to do that is almost impossible.

I don't care that you are a "gay surfer." You want us to believe that you are somehow special because you hang with the straight guys. Not so much!

To the guy who asked why gays constantly seek validation of our relationships from heterosexual culture: Because it's their world, not ours. They outnumber us, they run the government and they're deciding our political future.

I hate you for not having the strength to love me.

You naturally skinny guys should stop bashing bigger guys. Understand that not all of us can eat whatever we want, not work out and still stay skinny! Some of us have to work very hard to either maintain or lose weight.

To the fool that said being gay is just some unnatural Western shit and un-African: Just because your backward country oppresses gays with the fear of violence, death and imprisonment doesn't mean they don't exist underground! What about progressive South Africa, where gays are equal?

When you are driving behind me and all I can see is your face and torso in my rearview mirror, do me a favor and pull over to the side of the road and get into my back seat! Hell, you're practically there anyway.

Don't expect us to treat you the same when we know what you did to someone we love.

Don't be limited by the term "gay" in our label-crazy society, as evidenced by buying only designer, going broke chasing Tina and living only among folks who agree. Fight to keep the label from defining you and pay your wisdom forward by not boxing others in with labels!

"Intelligent Design" and Scientology are close cousins: They're loved by morons and both allow for alien intervention.

Gay people need to lead by example - just as Martin Luther King, Jr. encouraged African Americans to be non-violent. Be outstanding citizens and an integral part of the community.

So what if some gay men like lesbian porn? I happen to find nature films a little exciting.

Your name has been carved into a stall wall a couple of times, and its not a "good time."

I've been out for three years and I can explain how gay life works: (1) Bars are for people who don't have parties to go to; and (2) the internet is for people who are too socially inept to meet in bars.
Bitch Boy responds: And (3) bitches like that are for people too bitter to try meeting people online or in a bar.

To the "America's Next Top Model" wannabes who insist on using the stage at gay clubs for their runway show: It's a dance club, not a cat walk. Get over yourselves.

To you "youthful 53" types: If you have to keep saying how youthful you are, you aren't.

All this putting down of older gay men is bullshit. I am 60 and have all the sex I want, which is a lot more than I had when I was much younger. And it's guys in their 20s and 30s who find me attractive. It's not my money because I don't have any.

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SUNDAY: BIG TIME!!! 9 PM

MONDAY: DRAG on the EDGE with Princess Charles & The Lady Shabazz 11 PM

TUESDAY: "FAMILY" FEUD hosted by Mary Edith Pitts 11PM

WEDNESDAY: The ultimate trivia game BRAIN FREEZE Hosted by Ruby Redd, 11 PM

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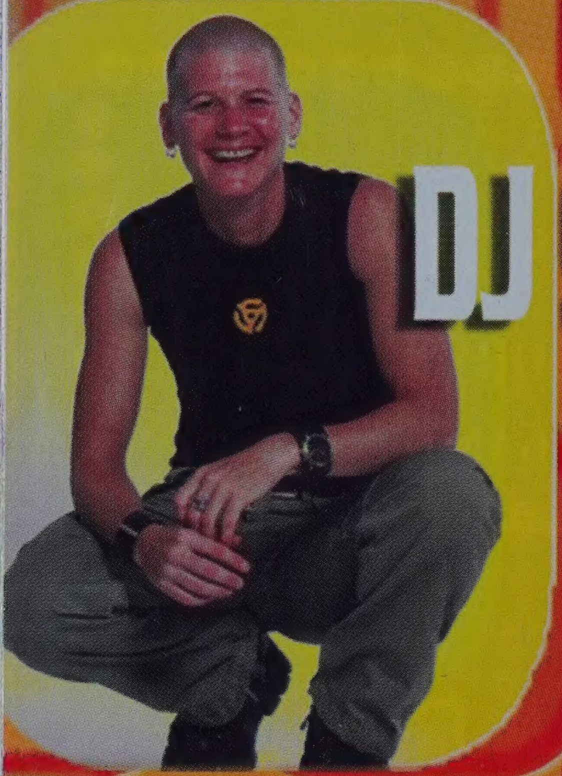

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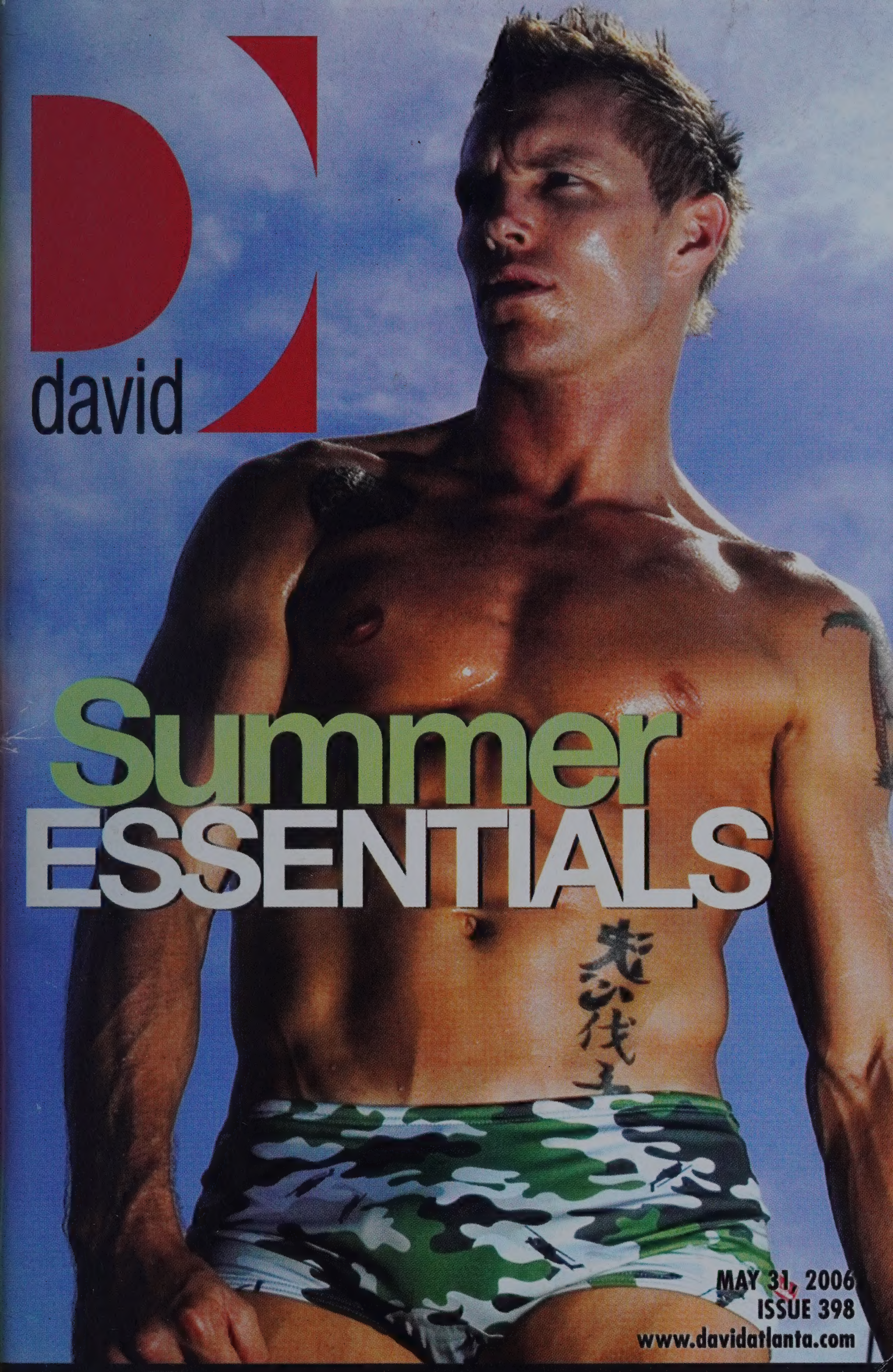
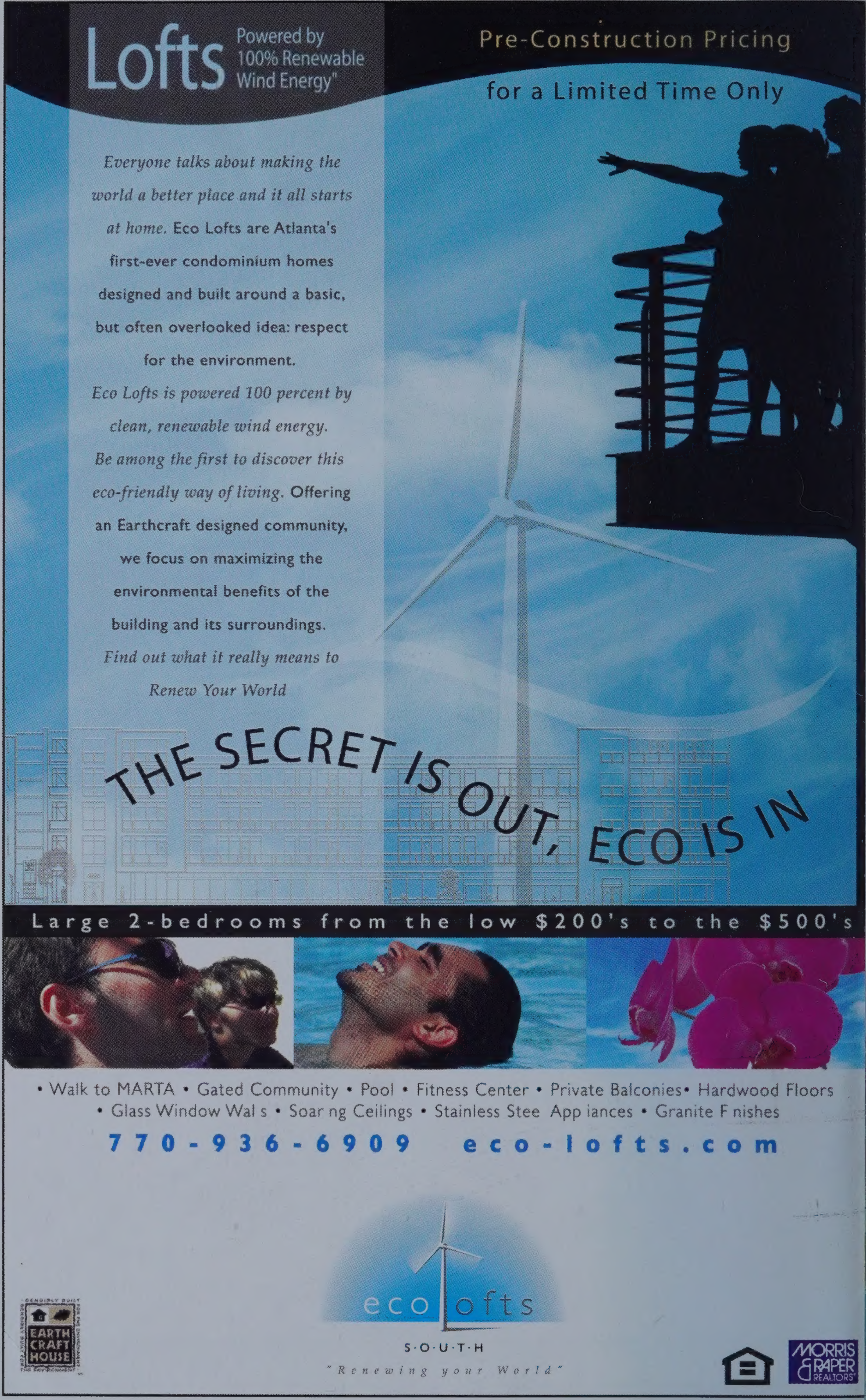


Summer ESSENTIALS

MAY 31, 2006
ISSUE 398
www.davidatlanta.com

KATHY GRIFFIN | SPEED DATING | LAST SUNDAY | SEEN@6°



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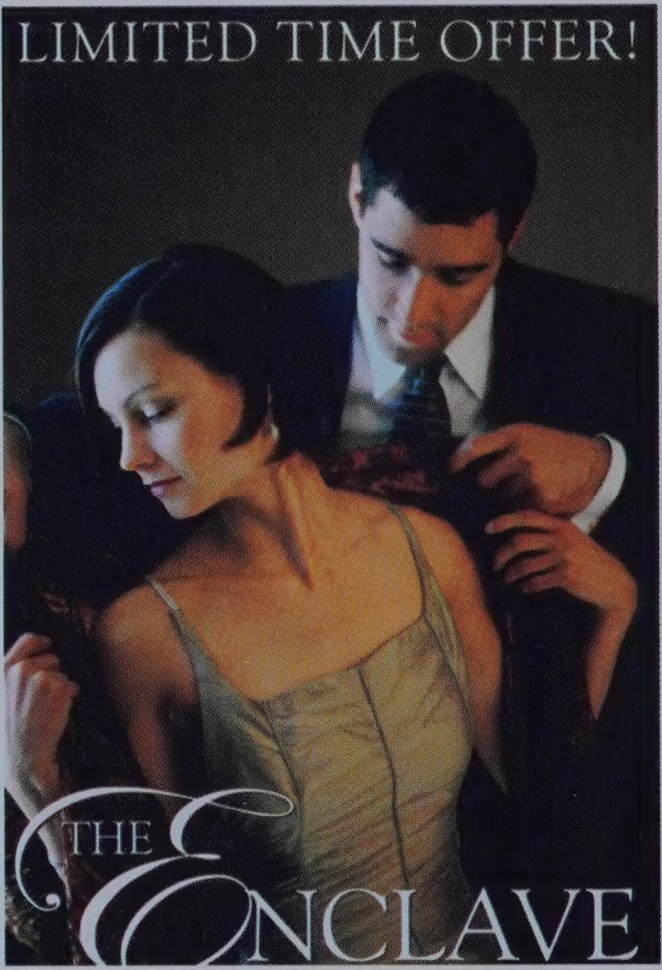
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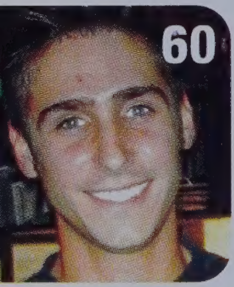

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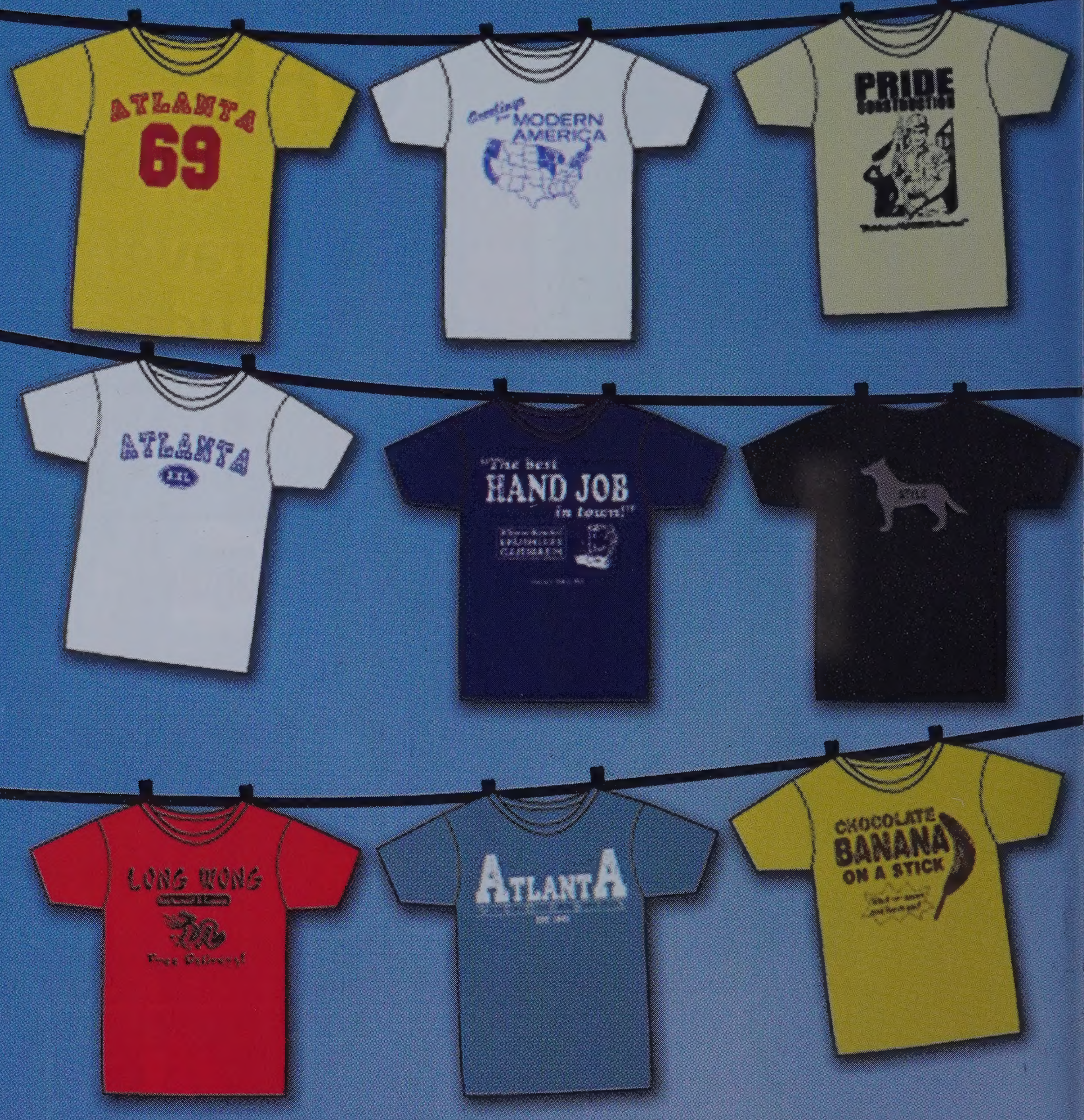
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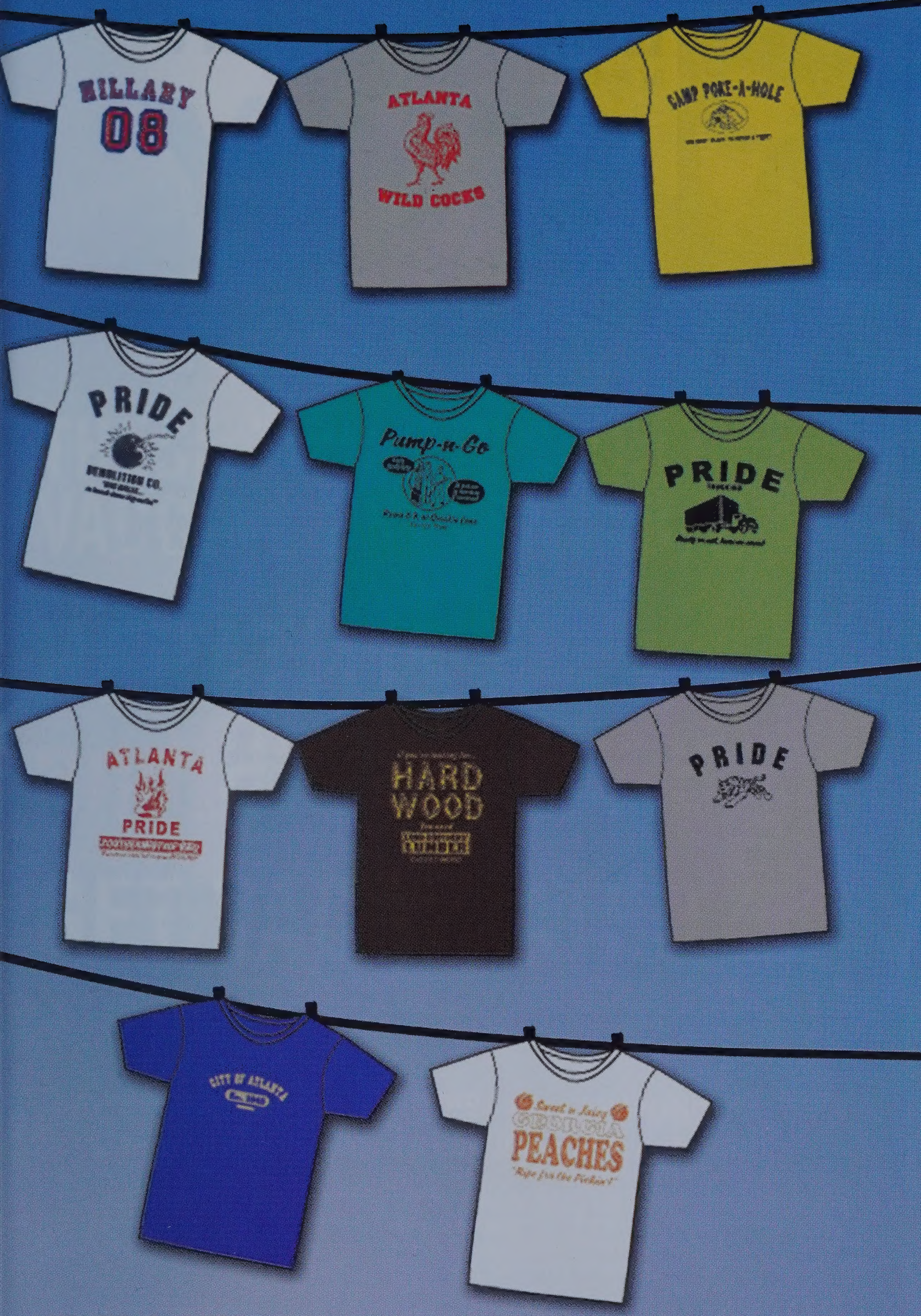
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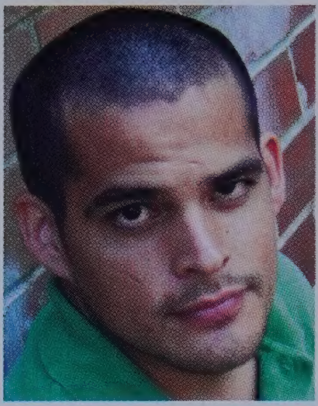


LIVIN' FOR THE CITY

BY RYAN LEE

SKY HIGH

Actual **moments** are better than **memories**

HURTLING TOWARD THE GROUND AT hundreds of feet per second, I expected to see God, to attain some Nirvana-like peace that helped me put life's trivialities in proper perspective.

I had imagined how freeing it would be floating among the clouds, and birds, and winds, coming as close as I ever would to flying. There turned out to be no birds nearby and if God made an appearance, I was too scared to notice.

The gushes of air filling my nose, mouth and eyeballs was nothing like the serene wind I'd envisioned, and the clouds we fell through were loaded with residual raindrops that pierced my face like I was head-butting a Christmas tree.

Even as we were falling, I was already mad at my inability to lose myself in the glorious moment. Instead of ease and tranquility, I was filled with dread at the thought of my instructor and I clipping the wing as we jumped out of the plane — which we were supposed to do after counting to "three," but that sonofabitch pushed me out after "two."

Then of course, I began to worry about the parachute not opening, or if it did open, getting it caught around our necks as we rapidly spiraled toward our graves. I didn't pause to take in the breathtaking view of land and life racing beneath us. Never moving my eyes off my instructor, I waited for him to give me the signal to pull the parachute chord.

What I like to consider our "moment of truth" arrived, and I breathlessly yanked the chord, simultaneously saying a prayer.

MY PROBLEM WAS, MY COLLEGE ROOMmate and I used to be hooked on those TV programs that show nothing but police chases and parachuting expeditions gone terribly wrong. I knew that a tragic accident could begin at any point during our jump, so I remained anxious even after we were safely floating with our "rig" fully operational.

Is that a hole I see in the canopy, and did one of those harness strings just snap?

As I imagined a scene from a "Faces of Death" video in which a poor skydiver plummets to the ground and bounces about 15 feet, I could feel my entire skydiving experience speeding past without me having achieved a moment of peace.

Sure enough, the green grass approached quicker and quicker, and as soon as we safely landed, I was already cursing myself and fretting over the $150 I just blew on a failed therapy session.

WITH TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS HINDSIGHT, I've come to appreciate that first skydive more than I did in the immediate aftermath, but I'm still disappointed I couldn't detach from my insecurities and anxieties long enough to enjoy the moment as it was happening.

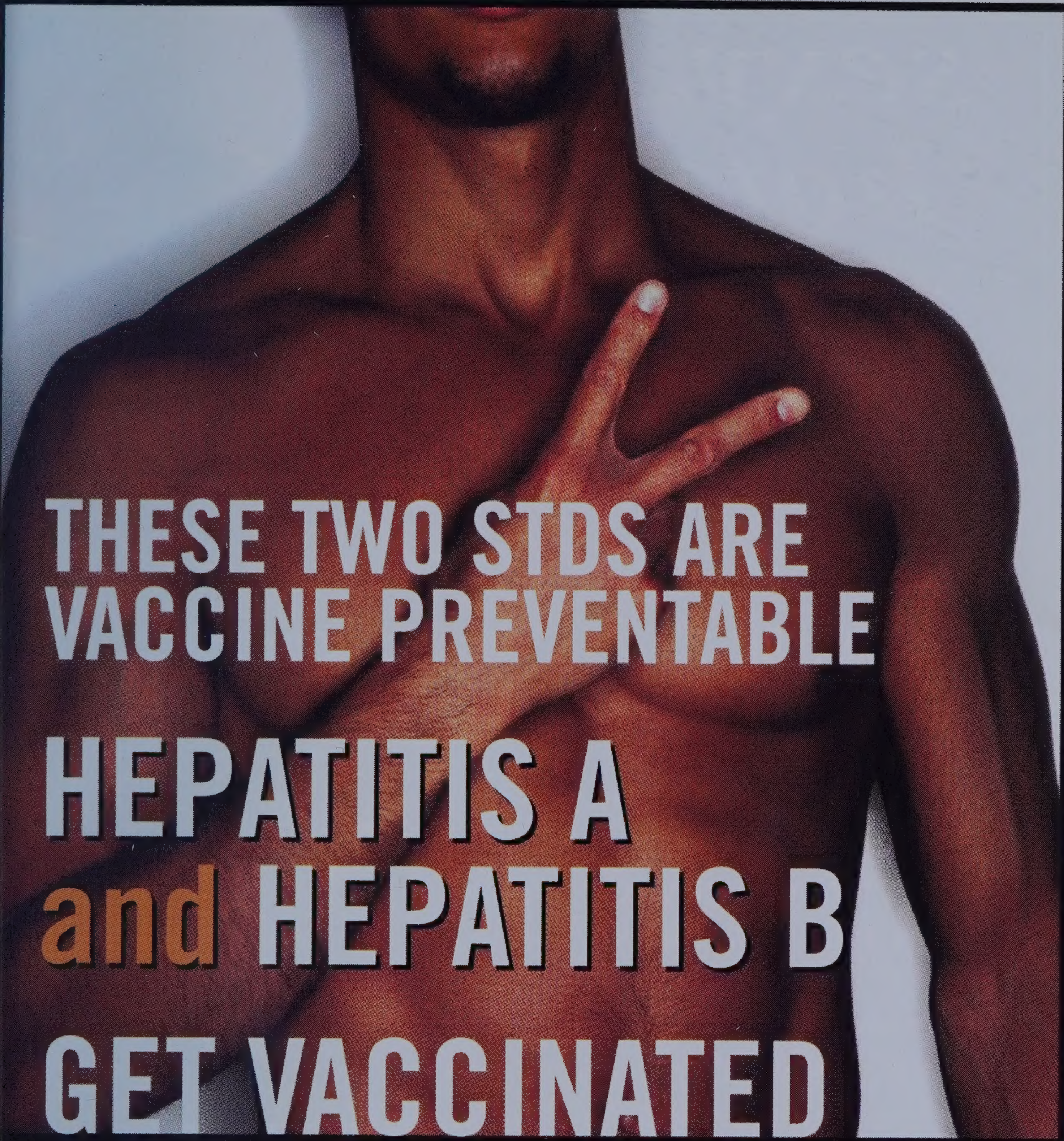
My friend and I are going skydiving this weekend, and I hope this time I actually get to experience the awakening that comes when you stare death in the face, and death blinks. I hope to enjoy and relish in the jump as it happens, not worry my way through it.

I've tried to incorporate the same mindset into my relationships — to no longer burden them with doomsday thinking where I'm waiting to be lied to, to be betrayed, to be taken advantage of, and waiting for the entire episode to end with hearts and guts splattered across the floor.

Yes, new relationships often inspire fear, and we've all seen and experienced romances gone terribly wrong. But to expect the worst at every turn, to approach new love as if its sole mission is to destroy you, might cause one of the most exhilarating experiences of your life to flash before you without even noticing.

And there's nothing worse than looking back and wishing you appreciated the thrill in real time.

Deputy Editor Ryan Lee is still bitter about that 'Jump out on three' trick. E-mail him at RLee@DavidAtlanta.com



If you're a man who has sex with other men, you're at risk for hepatitis A and hepatitis B, also referred to as Vaccine-Preventable Hepatitis (VPH). VPH includes hepatitis A and hepatitis B. Hepatitis C is not vaccine preventable.

Fact: Hepatitis B can be **100 times** more contagious than **HIV.**
Fact: You **can get** hepatitis A even if you **use a condom.**

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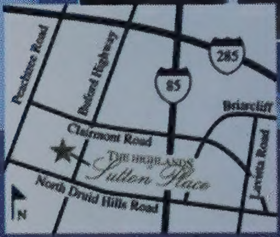
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MAYBE IT'S JUST ME

BY TOPHER PAYNE

WHAT'S NEW, PUSSYCAT?

Wandering hearts meet for magic moment

WHEN MY LIFE IS A LITTLE MORE STABLE, I intend to get a dog. A small dog, perhaps a Jack Russell or one of those little wiener dogs, and I will name him Benjamin.

I heard once about a breed of dog that is incapable of barking. That sounds quite promising. Perhaps Benjamin will be one of those.

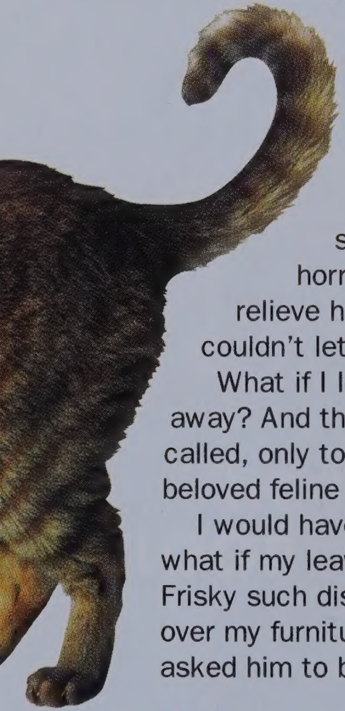
I want something adorable that doesn't invade my space, won't make unnecessary noise and will love me without question. Basically the same qualities I want in a boyfriend.

I will be traveling a lot in the coming months, and then the lease is up on my apartment and I'm moving, which might be limited by bringing an animal with me. So the timing's not right for a pet.

A few days ago, when I opened my front door, a cat wandered into my living room, curled up on the rug, and began to purr. I was completely bewildered. She was more comfortable in my apartment than I am.

I checked her tag. Her name, it informed me, was Frisky. I called the phone number below her name, and left a message informing them of Frisky's whereabouts. Fearing for her safety, I allowed her to stay until the owner returned my call.

I sat down to write. Moments later, Frisky joined me on my lap. This was a sweet kitty. Not that I wanted a kitty. But if I did want a kitty, I'd want one that did this.



I REALIZED FRISKY might be hungry, so I gave her tuna, which she ate with greedy enthusiasm. Then I realized with horror that she would need to relieve herself at some point, but I couldn't let her outside.

What if I let her out and she ran away? And then the frantic owners called, only to discover I'd let their beloved feline slip from my grasp?

I would have to buy a litter box. But what if my leaving for the store caused Frisky such distress that she peed all over my furniture? I called George, and asked him to buy me a litter box, and more tuna. And some sort of toy on a stick, to amuse her. Maybe some catnip.

George is not a cat person. But, he conceded, if he liked cats, he would like this one. Frisky responded to this appraisal by rolling on her back and encouraging George to scratch her belly.

"She doesn't look like a Frisky," I told George.

"You can't rename someone else's cat, Topher; it's tacky," he chided.

Despite this, George and I began calling the cat Linda.

Linda slept on my bed that night, close to my head. I fell asleep to the sound of her purring. The next morning, I got the call.

"She's an indoor-outdoor cat," said her owner, who lived around the corner. "She likes to explore. Just let her out, and she'll come home."

So, I left her out. She had a home, and I didn't want a cat anyway.

THAT NIGHT, WALKING ABOUT A BLOCK FROM my house, I saw a bouncing ball of white fluff crossing the street. It was Linda. She followed me all the way home.

"Go away, Linda," I told her. "You don't live here."

Then I gave her more tuna, and entertained her with the feather on a stick.

"Topher, she's not yours," said George, watching me with disdain.

"But maybe she's not happy with her current owner," I replied. "Maybe they don't appreciate her, and she wants a new life."

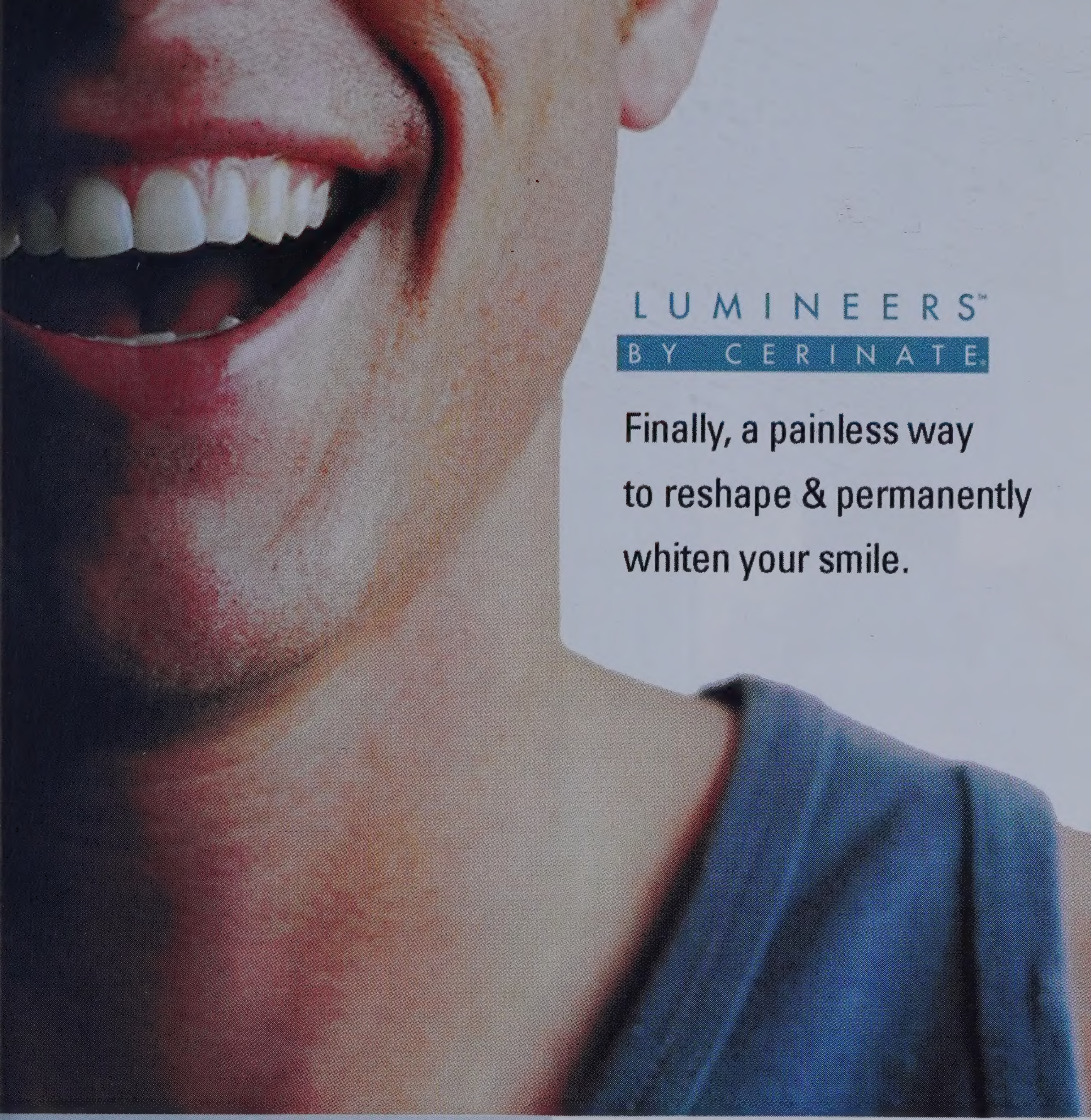
"Oh my God, you're a fucking homewrecker," he said. "If I ever get a boyfriend, I'm never leaving you alone with him."

George was, of course, correct. It was obvious from Linda's disposition and appearance that someone loved her very much — someone completely oblivious to the risk that a crazy fag might kidnap her sweet kitty and refuse to give it back.

I picked Linda up and set her outside. She meowed at the door for a bit, confused by her abrupt departure, and then gave up and took her leave.

"I miss her already," I said, watching from the window.

"I know, darling," said George. "There's nothing quite so bittersweet as the end of an affair."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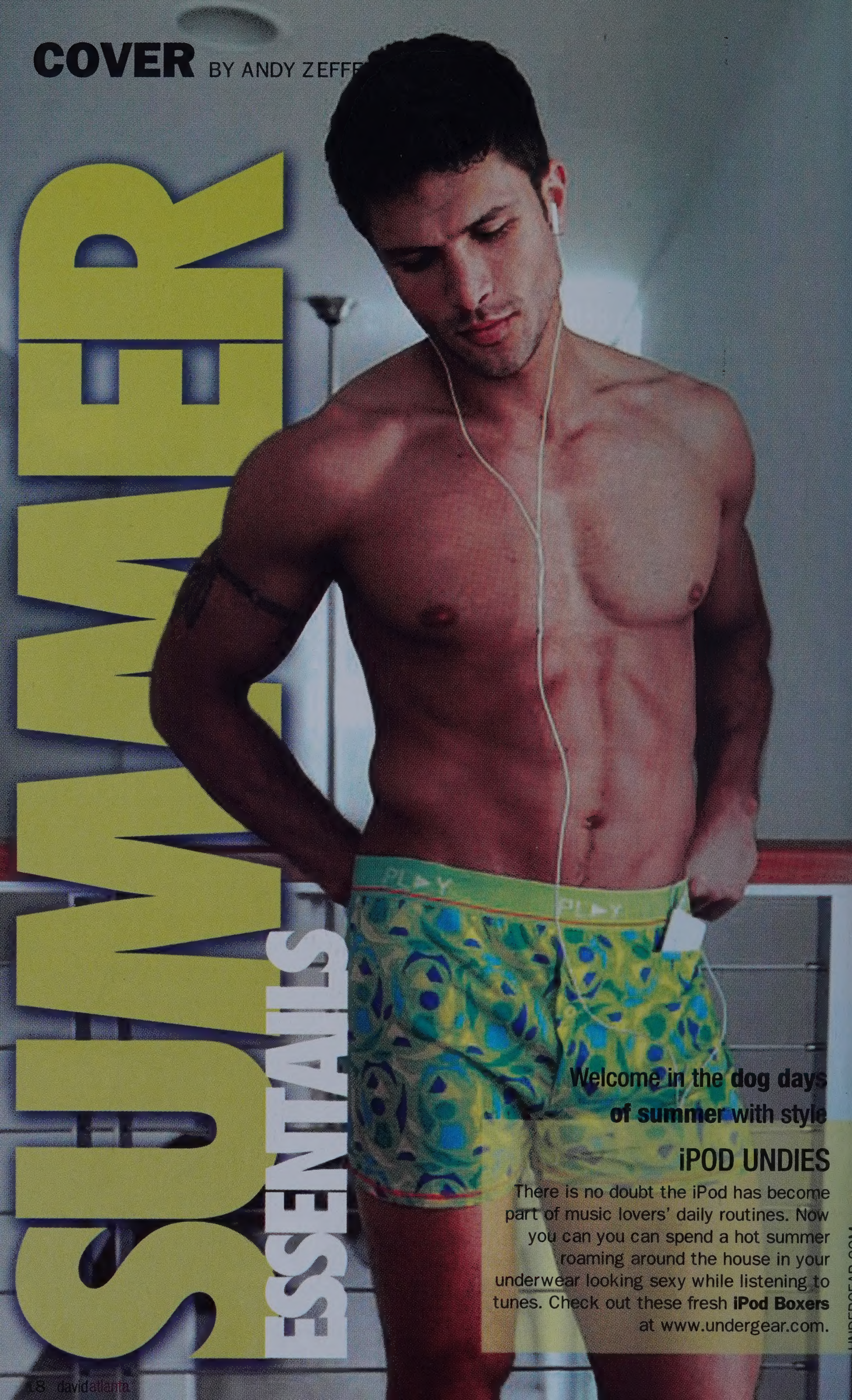

SUMMER ESSENTIALS

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IT'S ALREADY HOT. AND IT'S ONLY GOING TO get hotter, so don't get caught in the sun without these summer essentials.

In case you've fallen behind on your grooming, or still need a few items to make summer more fun, we've got some tips for you. Check out these cool items to make the blazing summer, well, cooler, in every sense of the word.

WET AND WILD

You don't have to look far to find a great bathing suit. Numerous retailers in South beach and Lauderdale offer a vast array of cuts and styles. Our recommendation: Try the great looks of **AussieBum**, available at www.aussiebum.com

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SKIN SENSE

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Besides, sitting in the dermatologists office waiting to have spots lasered and picked off you is hardly anybody's idea of fun.

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Kiehls can be found at finer retailers.

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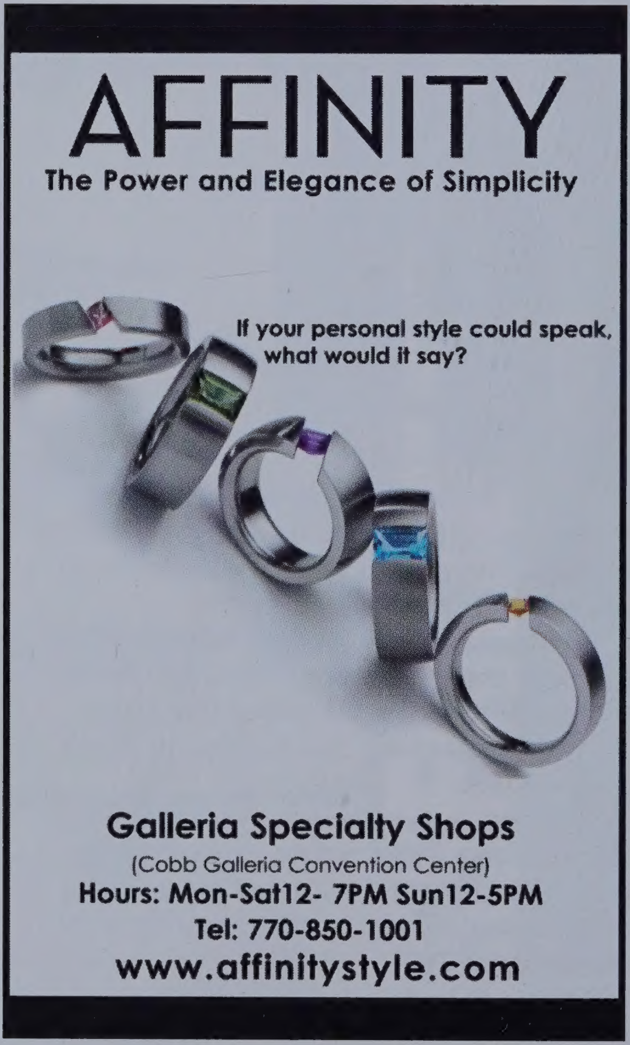
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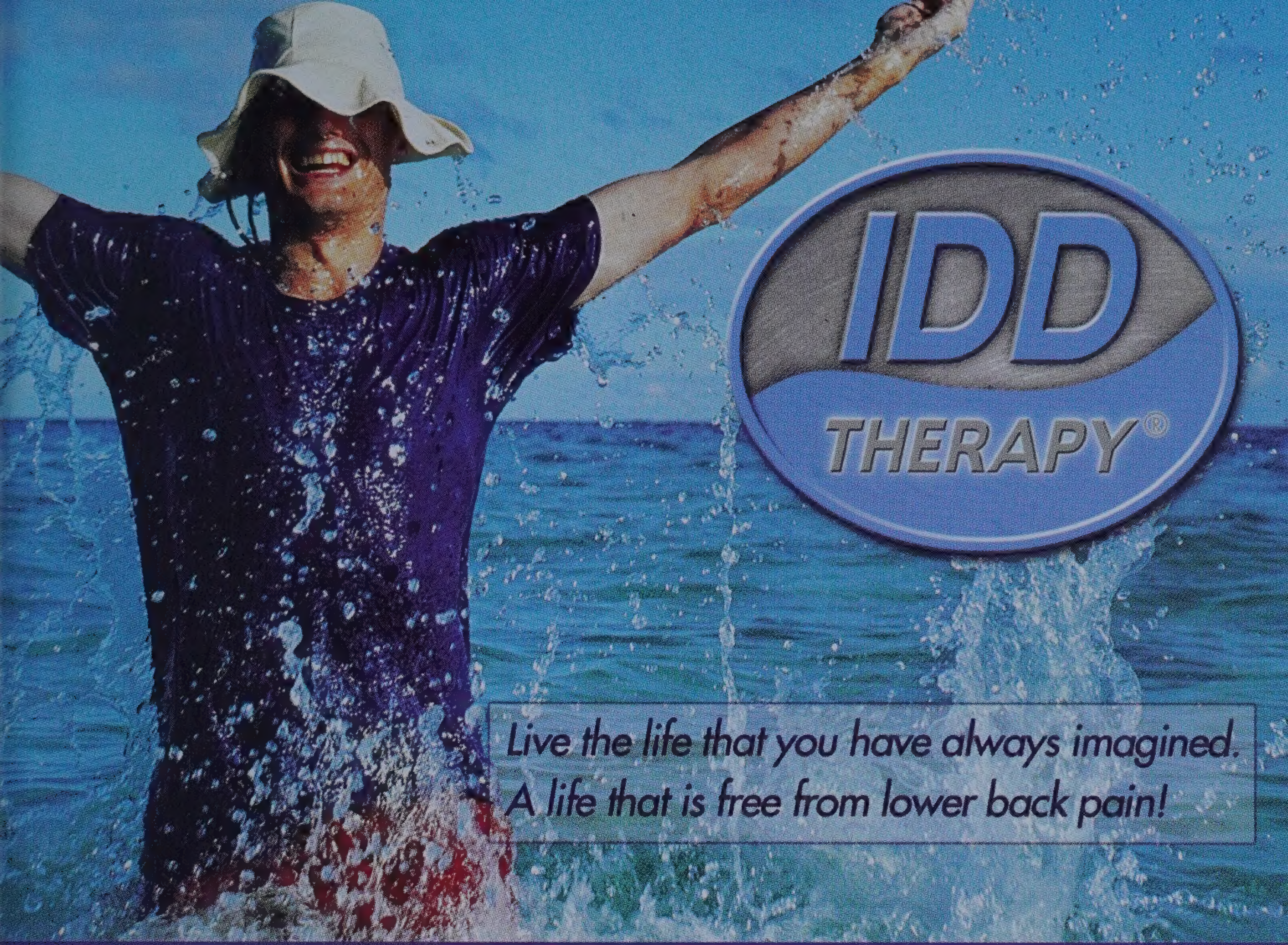
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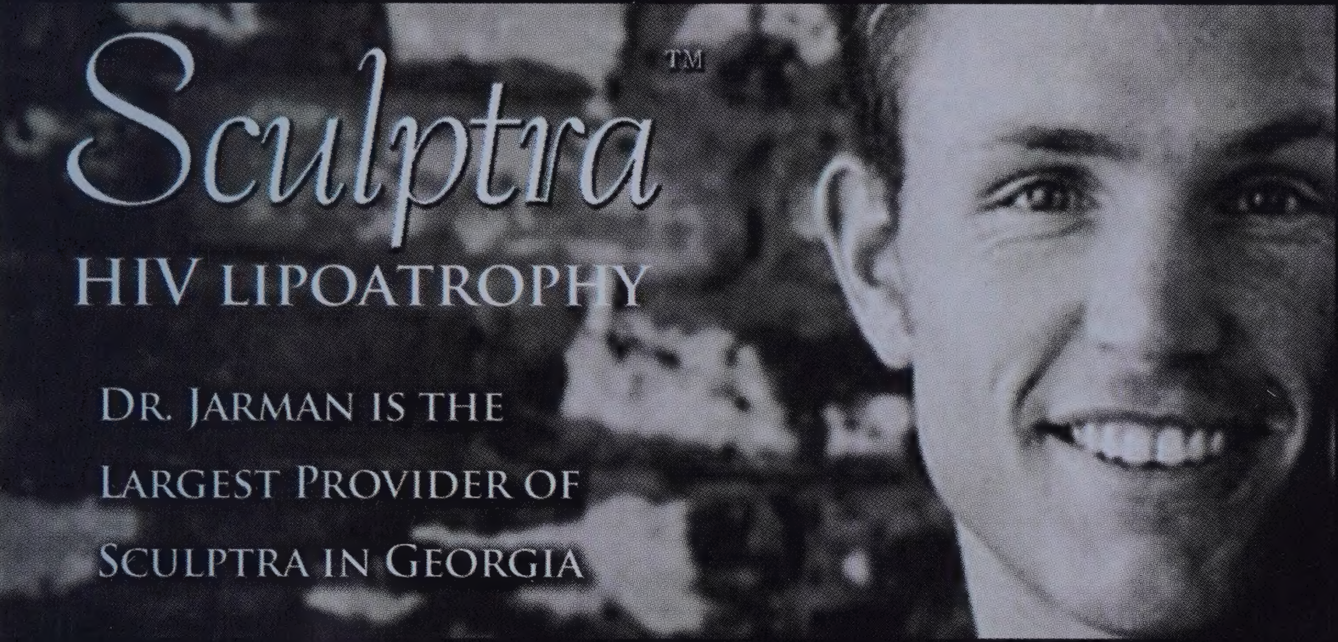

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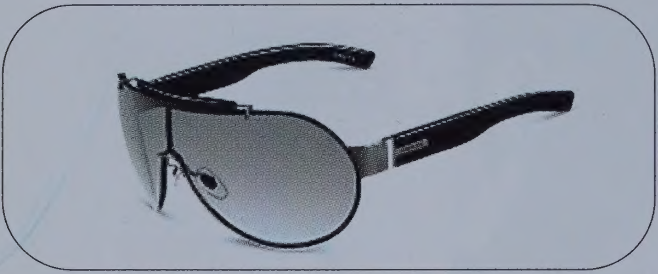
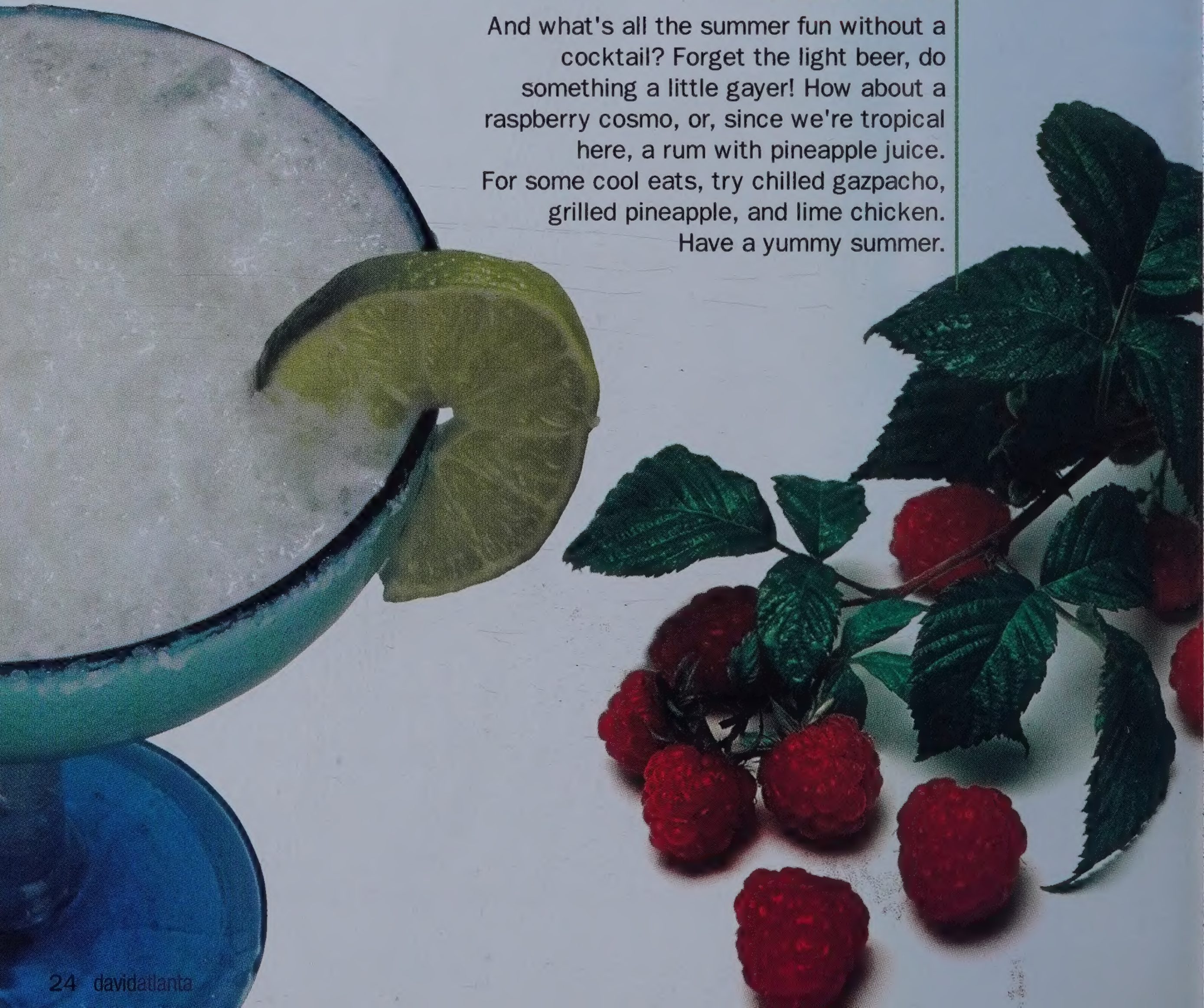


SUN STYLES

Ninety degrees plus makes dressing up a little uncomfortable. But you can still look stylish in sporty sun wear. Try a pair of **Gucci** sunglasses for added sex appeal. And don't forget to wear a hat, especially for guys whose hair follicles have quit. A scorched head equals one big ouch!

TASTY TIPS

And what's all the summer fun without a cocktail? Forget the light beer, do something a little gayer! How about a raspberry cosmo, or, since we're tropical here, a rum with pineapple juice. For some cool eats, try chilled gazpacho, grilled pineapple, and lime chicken. Have a yummy summer.



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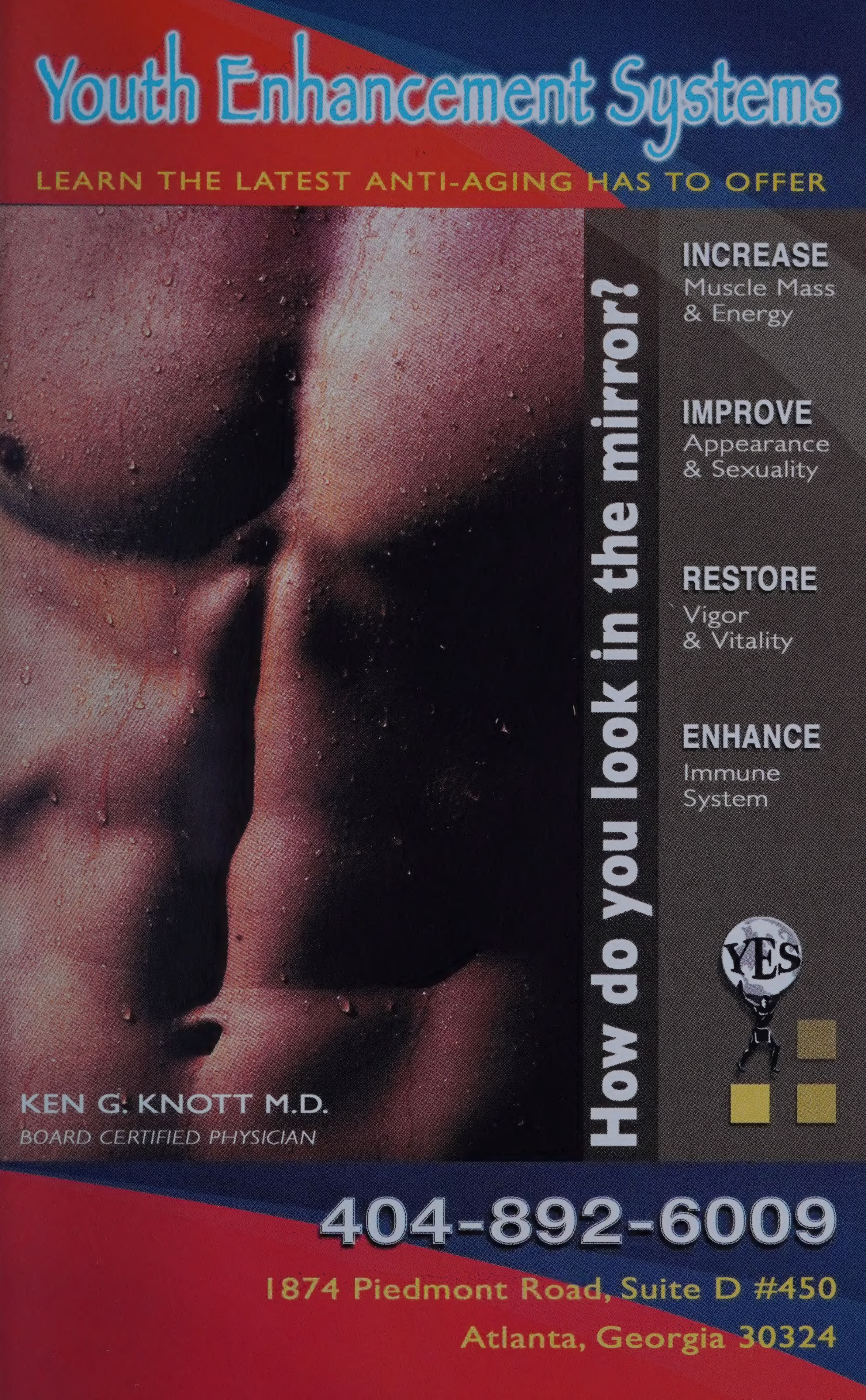

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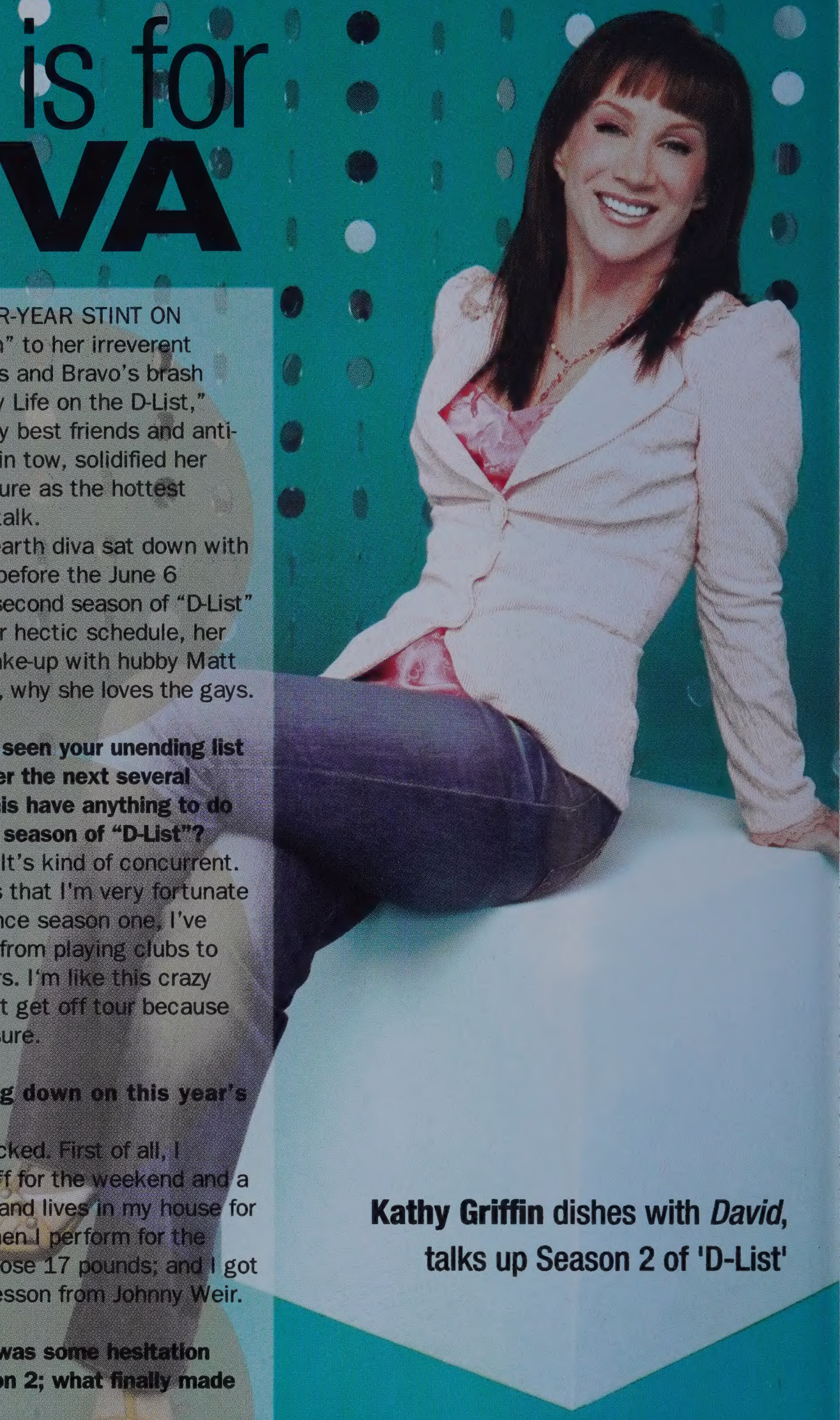
BY BO SHELL

'D' is for DIVA

Kathy Griffin dishes with *David*, talks up Season 2 of 'D-List'



FROM HER FOUR-YEAR STINT ON "Suddenly Susan" to her irreverent stand-up routines and Bravo's brash reality show "My Life on the D-List," Kathy Griffin, gay best friends and anti-celebrity humor in tow, solidified her place in our culture as the hottest source of trash talk.

The down-to-earth diva sat down with *David* just days before the June 6 premiere of the second season of "D-List" to dish about her hectic schedule, her break-up and make-up with hubby Matt — and of course, why she loves the gays.

***David:* So we've seen your unending list of tour dates over the next several months. Does this have anything to do with the second season of "D-List"?**

Kathy Griffin: It's kind of concurrent. The nice thing is that I'm very fortunate because ever since season one, I've been able to go from playing clubs to beautiful theaters. I'm like this crazy person who can't get off tour because it's such a pleasure.

So what's going down on this year's "D-List"?

It is action-packed. First of all, I auction myself off for the weekend and a stranger comes and lives in my house for the weekend. Then I perform for the troops in Iraq; I lose 17 pounds; and I got an ice skating lesson from Johnny Weir.

We know there was some hesitation going into Season 2; what finally made you do it?

It helped my touring so much I couldn't not do it. Doing it is really a nightmare. Filming Season 1 was very tough, and tough on my marriage, but it's really been a great thing for me.

Speaking of your marriage, we heard you and your husband Matt were finished, but you've since reconciled?

It's true. You'll she him in Season 2.

You seem to spare no one in your act. Is there anyone you wouldn't talk about?

It's not really about that. My problem is that I keep getting kicked off talk shows. We got the 411 two weeks ago about going on 'Ellen', and they told me that Ellen said, 'We can't have her coming on and trashing celebrities because our audience is too nice for that.'

What are they protecting, the sanctity of a Nicole Richie joke? It's not like I'm slamming religious groups or the government, but I've been banned from lots of shows: "The View," "Regis and Kelly," "Letterman," and "Conan." But Ellen really hurt because I do admire her, and think she's doing a lot of good work.

For a comedian like you, isn't getting kicked off talk shows kind of a badge of honor?

It's fun. But the truth is, I've got shit to push just like everybody else. I want people to watch my shows and be entertained and think I'm funny. It's a badge of honor until the network is going "You HAVE to promote yourself, and now we have to call Tony Danza." Ugh.

Why do you think the gays love you?

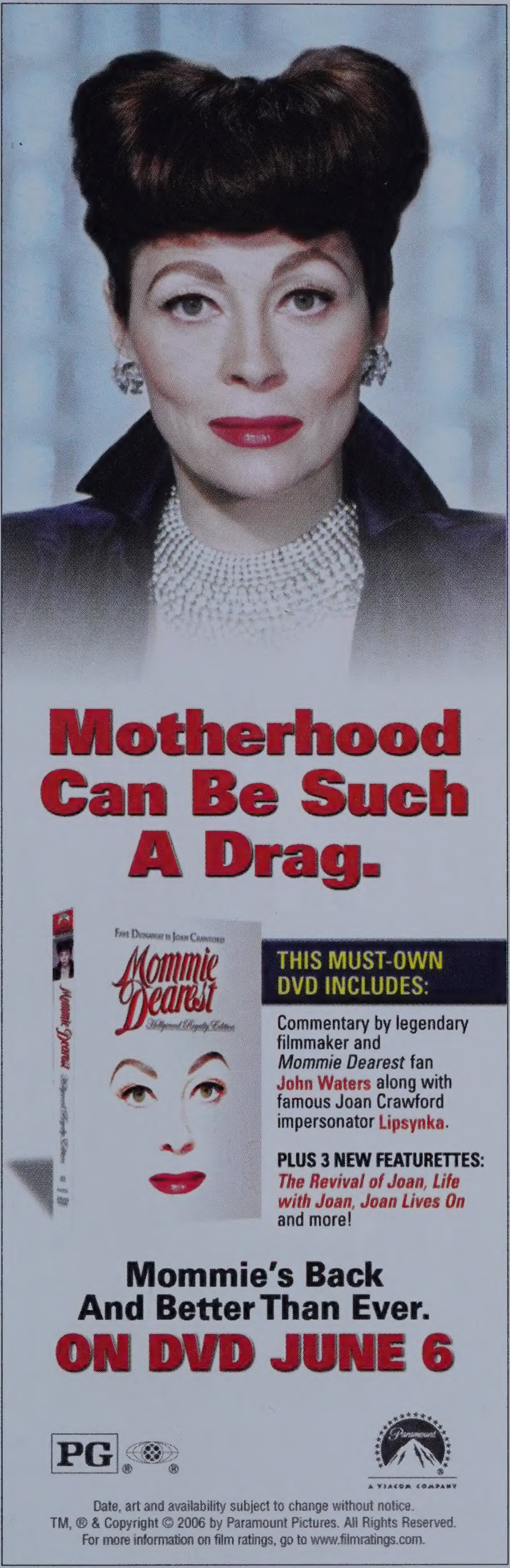
Because I love them, first of all, and I think I'm down with the cause. I see gay people, and I really admire the gay community in how they are able to mobilize.

The gays have fucking organized their shit, and I really admire that. When you do a gay show, people aren't gasping; no one is storming out. If you're gay, then you've been through a lot of shit, so I say, 'Let's go for it.'

Well when you come to Atlanta in October, you're guaranteed to be serving it up to an audience filled with 'mos.

Oh, I can't wait!

The second season of 'My Life on the D-list' premieres June 8 at 9 p.m. on Bravo. Kathy makes her Atlanta debut Oct. 13 at the Ferst Center, 225 North Ave., 404-894-9600, www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu



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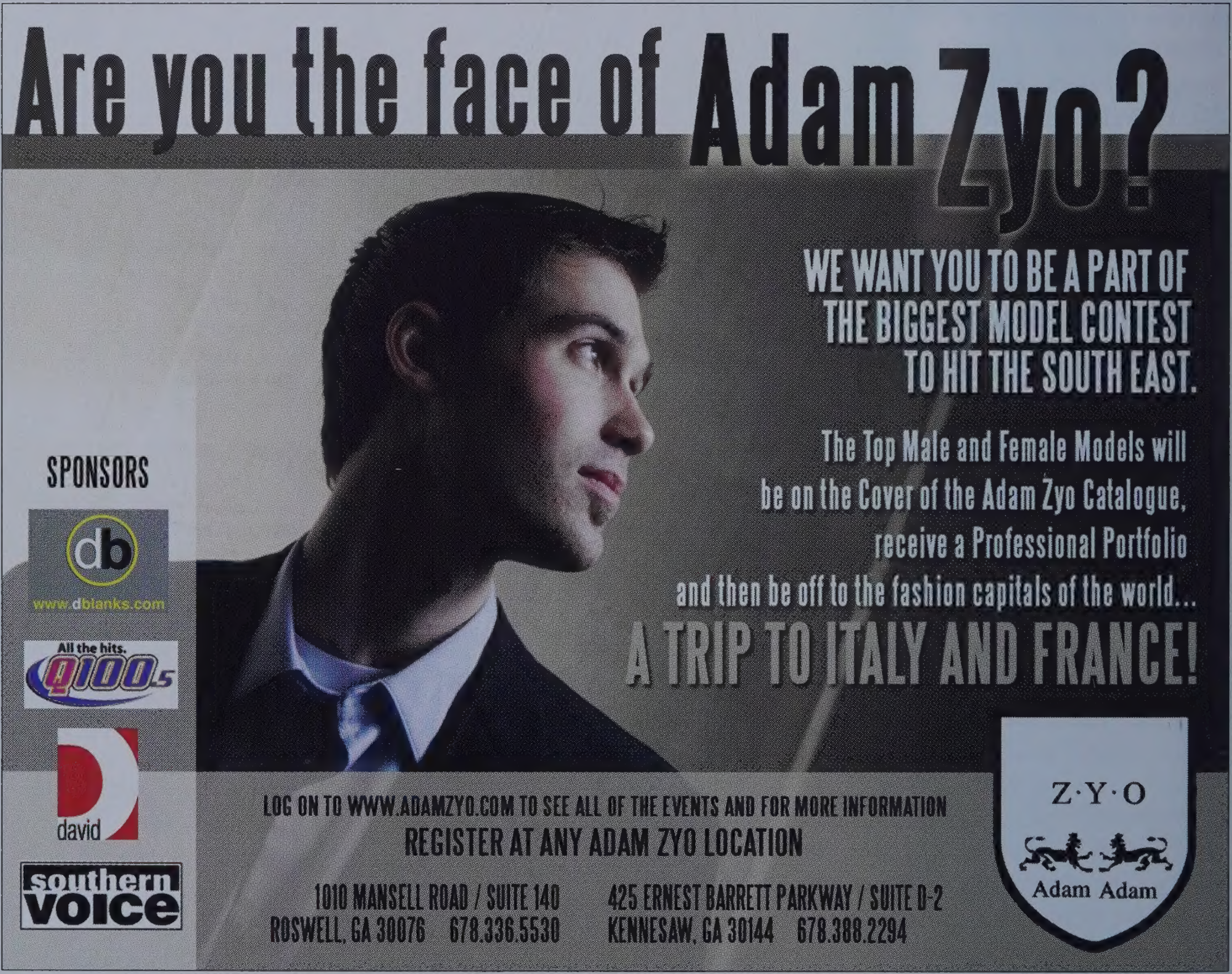

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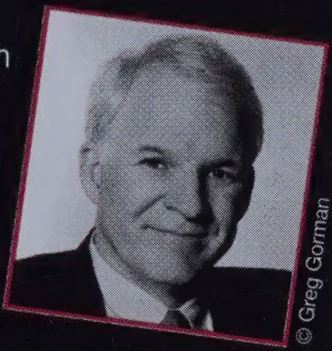
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BY ERIC ERVIN

GENTLEMEN, START YOUR ENGINES’

How many **guys can you meet** in one night?

TRACEY RUST AND FELIX POPE

ON YOUR MARK ... GET READY, GET SET — DATE! OK so gay men are probably the last species on earth that need a course in speed dating, since many first dates pass among us with a sprint to the bedroom.

But a different kind of speed dating makes a stop at the Heretic on June 8, and according to organizers, there's bound to be a horserace of men signed up to meet "Mr. Right," or even "Mr. Right Now."

Be that as it may, Tracey Rust and Felix Pope, owners of No Strings Attached, say the events are not opportunities for a quick hop in the sack.

The term "speed dating" implies no commitments or expectations. Whereas sometimes one guy in a usual dating scenario is left heartbroken, speed dating is much less traumatic: just two guys meeting for the first time in casual conversation.

Conversation — you know, it's when people talk to each other and get to know one another better. Say it with me, *con-ver-sa-tion*. Good!

RUST AND POPE SAY SPEED DATING IS A FUN way to meet new guys and make a connection, whether love, friendship or professional.

"It's a great way to network with the hopes of finding that perfect friend," Rust says. "We try to target the more professional gay man and lesbian. They don't have time to spend three to four hours on the computer."

The Heretic is just the latest stop on the No Strings Attached agenda. Participants can register prior to the day of the event on the company's website, or at the host venue. There's a $20 registration fee, but there are always promotional campaigns that offer discounts between $5 and $10.

Every guy receives a free bag of goodies, including pens, T-shirts and key chains. Pope and Rust strongly suggest early registration, as the list usually fills up quickly.

"You're taking a risk showing up the day of the event," Rust warns.

Keeping with the well-known format, guys sit at tables and everyone rotates, allowing the men to quickly weed out the studs from the duds.

"Normally, within the [first] three to four minutes you're going to know if you're not going to want to talk with someone," Pope says.

At their first event, around 14 guys showed up, and Pope and Rust say everyone was left begging for more.

"It's a blast," Rust says. "What's amazing to me is that the gay community really don't have an idea of speed dating."

THE IDEA STEMS FROM POPE'S NIGHTMARE blind dates. Gay and single after ending a six-year relationship, he entered the local dating scene two years ago. The big city landscape was new to the small-town North Carolina native.

"I was suddenly thrown in the Atlanta dating scene, so I didn't realize all of the wackjobs," Pope says.

He would meet guys on the Internet, and would always share his bad experiences with Rust, who is his hairdresser. Rust, straight and married, saw a business plan in her friend's Tales from Dating Disasters.

Pope remembers one guy who ditched him at a nightclub with his best friend, who was a total stranger to Pope. Another guy lived with his parents, and yet another with a transsexual ex-boyfriend that called Pope at all hours of the day and night.

And what you see is not always what you get with the online bait-and-switch.

"Sometimes when you go online, they just don't look like that in person," Pope says.

The No Strings Attached motto is "Where Seeing is Believing.

"We're trying to have one every month," Pope says.

***No Strings Attached** speed dating takes place June 8 at the Heretic, 2069 Cheshire Bridge Road. www.nostringsattached.bravehost.com*

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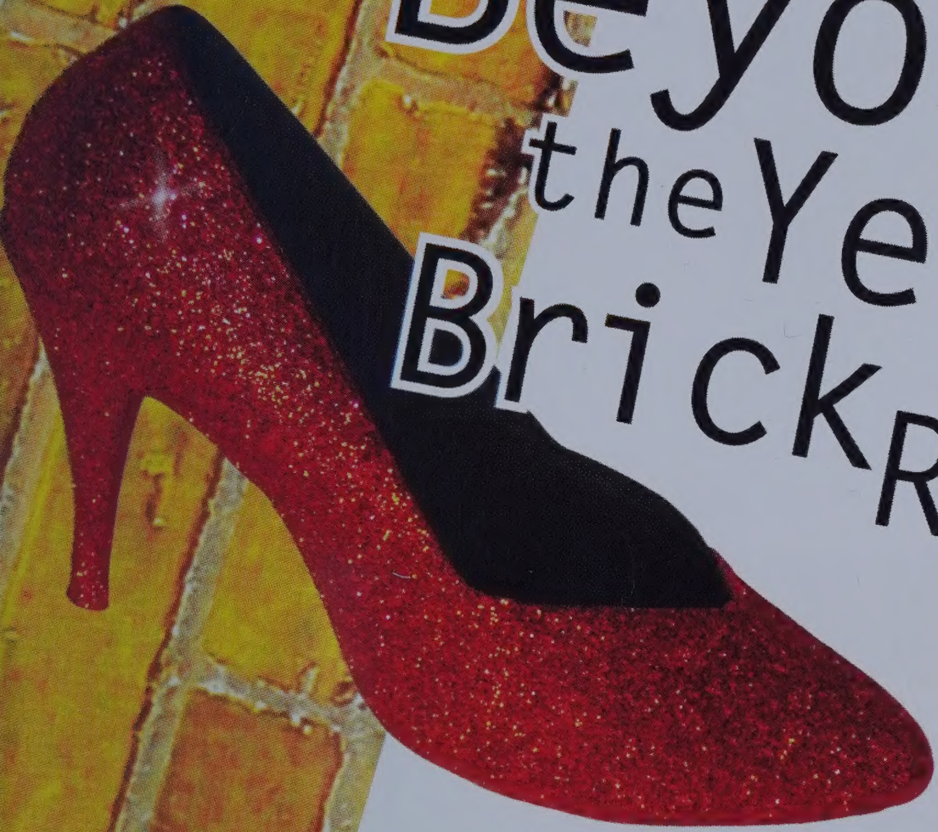

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DATEBOOK 06.01 — 06.07

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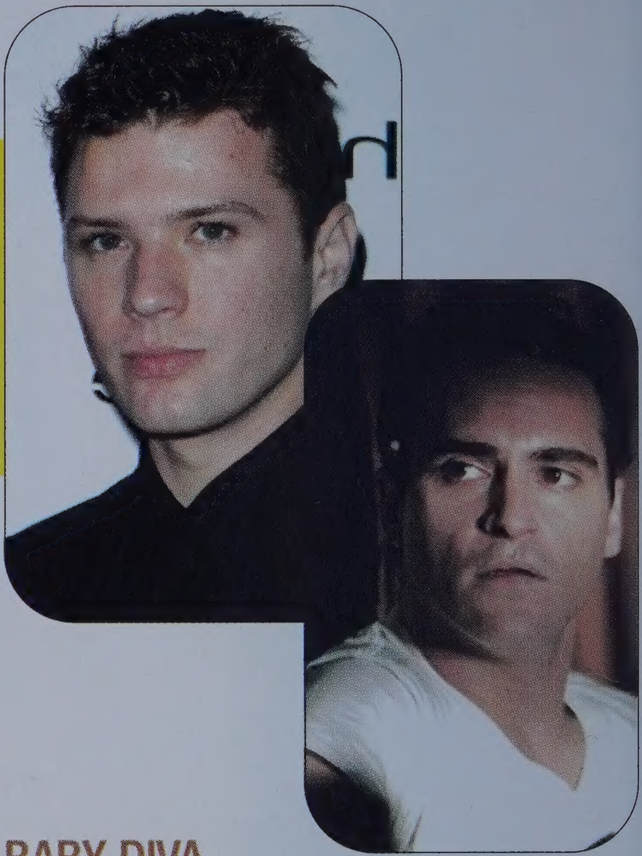
FOXY FILMS

The annual **Coca-Cola Fox Theatre Summer Film Festival** starts with the Oscar-winning flicks '**Crash**' and '**Walk the Line**,' each starring its own eye candy, **Ryan Phillippe** and **Joaquin Phoenix**, respectively. *'Crash' screens Thursday, June 1 at 8 p.m. 'Walk the Line' runs Monday, June 5 at 8 p.m. Fabulous Fox Theatre, 660 Peachtree St. 404-881-2100, www.foxtheatre.org*



BABY DIVA

Dance singer **Reina** visits Atlanta with four top 20 hits, a five-octave range and enough energy to keep you going all night long. *Saturday, June 3 at midnight. WETbar, 960 Spring St. 404-745-9494, www.wetbaratlanta.com*

YOU'RE A GOOD BITCH, CHARLIE BROWN

Charlie Brown and her cast give one last show in their current venue, before moving on to bigger and better things (see story on Page 56). *Sunday, June 4 at 10 p.m. Charlie Brown's Cabaret at Underground Atlanta, www.chariebrownscabaret.net*

WIRE HANGERS

Faye Dunaway is Joan Crawford in '**Mommie Dearest**,' celebrated with a special Dinner & a Movie night for the 25th anniversary DVD release. *Wednesday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. Red Chair Restaurant & Video Lounge, 550-C Amsterdam Ave. 404-870-0532, www.redchairatlanta.com*

HOT DATES

06.02-06.04 **LUMBERJACK'S:** It's Black Light/Body Paint weekend for the guys at our favorite clothing-optional camping resort. *Lumberjack's Campground, 50 Highway 230, Unadilla. 478-783-2267, www.lumberjackscampground.com*

06.03 **GAY FOOTBALL:** The National Flag Football League of Atlanta, a new group of gay football fans, invite players at various playing levels to their combine draft, which leads the new players into the group's first games on June 10. *The draft is from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., and the games from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the lower fields at Central Park on Central Avenue between Ralph McGill and North Ave. www.nffla.com*

FULL RADIUS DANCE: Full Radius Dance hosts '**Dance Synergy**,' a dance festival also featuring troupes that include performers who live in wheelchairs. *8 p.m. at the Rialto Center, 80 Forsyth St. 404-651-4727, www.fullradiusdance.org*

DIVA PERFORMS: Former disco heavyweight **Candi Staton** (pictured) (think 'Young Hearts Run Free') performs an acoustic show in Virginia Highlands. *3 p.m. at Criminal Records/Aurora Coffeehouse, 992 North Highland Ave. 404-607-1300, www.criminal.com*

06.06 **HEP CAMPAIGN:** Kick off this summer's campaign to end Hepatitis A and B among gay men at Hep Team Atlanta's first awareness event. *6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Red Chair, 550-C Amsterdam Ave. 404-870-0532, www.hepteamatlanta.com*

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

THU 06.01

AMSTERDAM. All-day Smirnoff martini specials.
BURKHART'S. Kitty LeClaw's 'Meow Mix,' midnight.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag Idol II, 10p.m.
EAGLE. "Blackout Thursday," 10 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Tini Thursdays, martini specials
HALO. 'Boys Night Out' resident DJ Brandon Sutton. Check the DJ booth for occasional CD giveaways.
HERETIC. Rapture with DJ Rick Walsh 10 p.m., no cover.
HOEDOWNS. Ladies Night, Free line dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia with Tom & Jim, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. "Bad Boyz, Bad Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Rotating weekly theme nights.
MODEL T. Karaoke with Johnny P.
OSCARS. Pure energy, pure videos with VJ Das Wright
RED CHAIR. Soulvation with DJ Quasi Mandisco
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2 for 1 at door & VIP rooms
TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. College Night, hottest student bodies and Men of WETbar calendar search, every second and third Thursday, 11 p.m.
WOOFS. Daily Food Specials

FRI 06.02

AMSTERDAM. DJ Van Cronkhite spins, dance floor open at 9 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba and Jeffery, 7:30 p.m., DJ Rob Reum afterwards.
BURKHART'S. The Friday Show with Kitty LeClaw and Mary Edith Pitts,11:30.
CHAPARRAL. Latin Night with DJ Carlos, 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret. 10 p.m.-until. Open 9 p.m.-4 a.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Frisky Friday's-Music and Friends
HERETIC. DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m.
JUNGLE. DV8 Goth Night, 10:30 p.m.
THE LION'S DEN. "Hot Prey Friday's." Hip-Hop and R&B. 10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Nicole Paige Brooks and Girlzz of LeBuzz talent competition, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Boys' Room" with Stewart, 9 p.m.
MODEL T. Divas of Delusion.
OSCARS. Afternoon showtunes. "Martinis, Men & Music Videos," 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. No cover with VJ Rick Farmer
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
TWINKLEDOME. Dress-up and dance to rock, glam, punk and new wave on the third Friday of every month. 9 p.m., $5 cover at Six, 3167 Roswell Road, Atlanta, 404-869-0522, www.twinkledome.com
SWINGING RICHARDS. "2-4-1 T-Shirt Review."
WETbar. Splash Party, no cover.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

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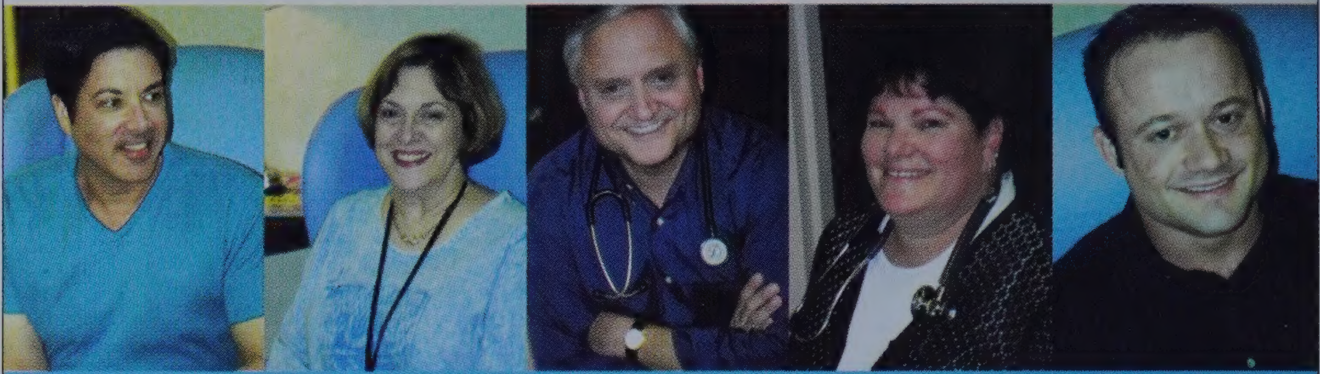

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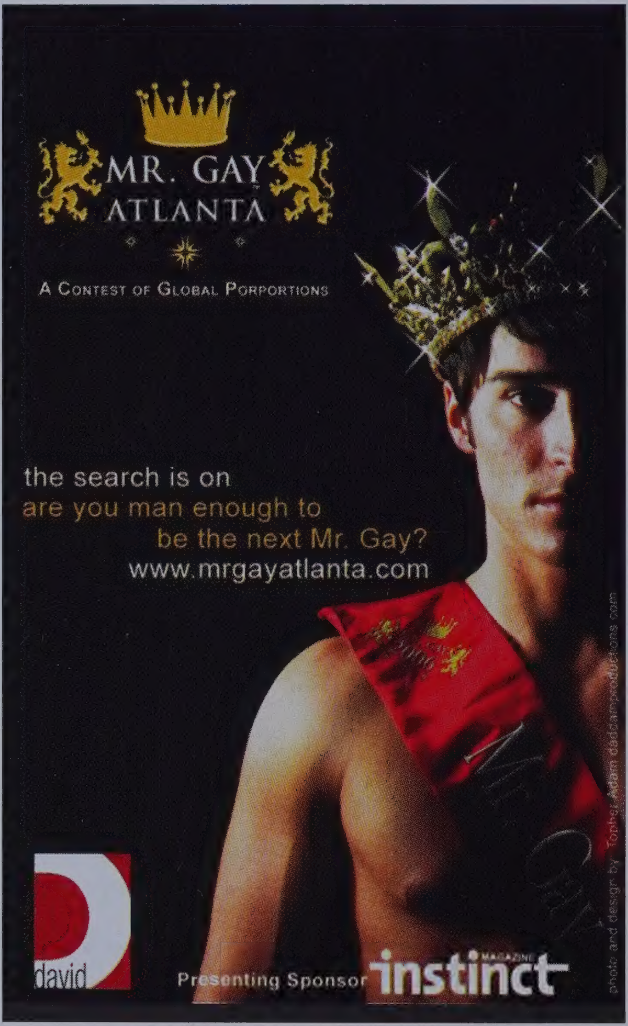
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

SAT 06.03

AMSTERDAM. Dance floor open, 9 p.m.
ATLANTA LIVE. Hip hop night with Traxx.
BLAKES. "Let's Make a Diva Deal" 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. 'Saturday Showcase' with Mary Edith Pitts and Kitty LeClaw, 11:30 p.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret . 10 p.m.-until. Open 9 p.m.-4 a.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Open at 11 a.m., Spring Fling drink specials
HERETIC. DJ Brian Beck at 9 p.m.
HOEDOWNS Free Progressive Two Step lessons, 8 p.m.
JUNGLE. Come Out Dancing, 7:30, Weekly special guest DJs and performers, 10 p.m.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show hosted by Tequila Mockingbird, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. The MODEL Tzz Girls.
OSCARS. High energy videos w/VJ Das Wright, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Girls night w/DJ Liz Owens
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRIPPS. 1st and 3rd Saturdays: Linda Michaels' "Showcase Showdown," 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m
WETBAR. Weekly Submerge party with guest DJ, $10 Cover

SUN 06.04

AMSTERDAM. T-Dance, 6 p.m. with DJ Dave Meyers
BLAKE'S. "Big Time!" drag revue with Shabazz, Jealousé, Myah Monroe, and guests.
BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Armorettes show, 9 p.m., no cover.
CENTRAL PARK CLUB AND BISTRO. Male Exotic Dancers at Midnight K-Rock Productions Presents 'Freaks of the Industry' with hosts Busta Love and DJ Gee every first and third Sunday.
CHAPARRAL. Hip Hop Night with Maxine Blue, DJ Smash and The Dreams, 10 p.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret show, midnight. Pouring until 4 a.m. Monday. No cover
CLUB EUROPE. The Lion's Den Presents "Erotic Sunday's." Hip-Hp and R&B. 8 p.m. – 3 a.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. 'Family Reunion BBQ,' 3 p.m.
THE HOUSE. SweetPillow Productions 'Revival' with DJ Russ C, 8 p.m. www.sweetpillow.com
MISS Q'S. Free Pool.
MODEL T. FREE Buffet.
RED CHAIR. Brunch and afternoon delight with disco hits and anthems
STAGE DOOR. T-dance 3-6 p.m., 1st and 3rd Sun.: The Tuckerettes, 2nd and 4th: The Stage Door Divas.

MON 06.05

AMSTERDAM. Industry Night, 9 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Drag on the Edge with Princess Charles. 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Tyler, midnight.
EAGLE. Free pool and rock music.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Free pool, noon to close.
HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.
THE HOUSE. Drag show featuring Charlie Brown, Shawnna Brooks, Ashley Kruiz, Genre and a weekly guest, 1 a.m.

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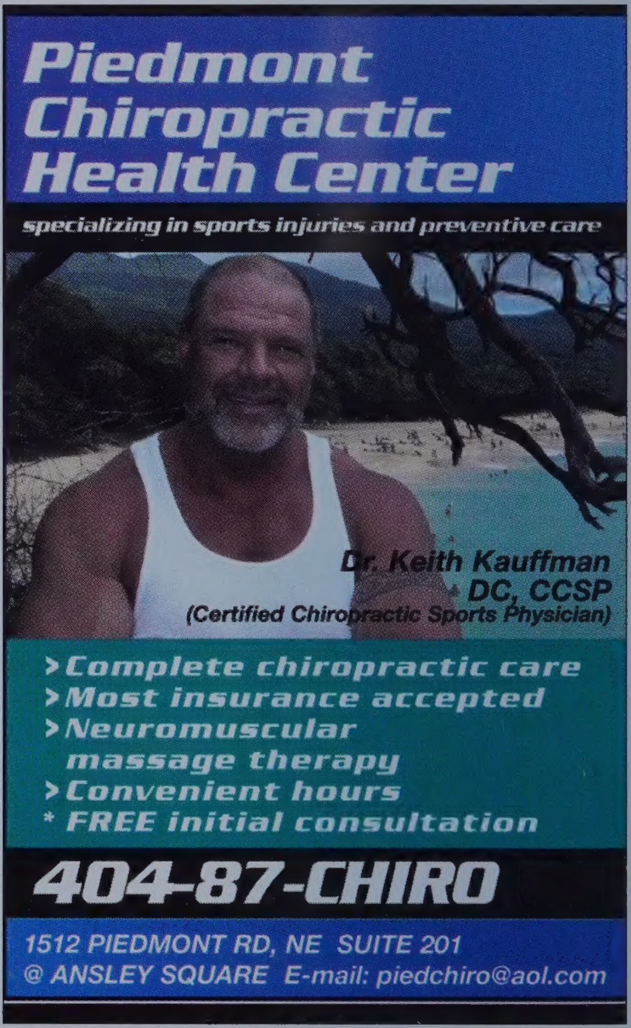
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JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Jim & Baton Bob, 8-10 p.m.
JUNGLE. Salsa dance class, $5, 7-10 p.m. "Stars of the Century" w/Niesha Dupree, 11 p.m. $7 cover.
LeBUZZ. "Lady LeBuzz" drag kings and drag queens show hosted by Heather Daniels, 10 p.m.
MARY'S. "Jump Start" your weekend early with guest DJ's and video game showdowns.
MISS Q'S. Free Pool.
NICKIEMOTO'S. "Dragamaki" w/Bubba D. Licious, 8:45 p.m.
OSCARS. Service Industry Night with VJ Chris Allen, 9 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Coming Out, Coming Alive Workshop every second and fourth Monday, 7 p.m.
WOOFS. Texas Hold-Em. No entry fee, prizes and more.

TUE 06.06

AMSTERDAM. Showtunes, 9 p.m.
ATLANTA LIVE. Traxx's 'Thugged Out Tuesdays'
BJ'S ROOSTER'S. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Family" Feud w/Mary Edith Pitts, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CHAPPARAL. Bad Boys with Savannah Leigh, Nicole Paige brooks and Mia, 10 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool, rock music.Open 8 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Tini Tuesdays, martini specials
HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Free beginner Two Step, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Tom & Jim, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke with Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
MODEL T. "069 Bingo" with Ken and Draft beer specials.
OSCAR'S. Home of "Atlanta's Original Showtunes Tuesdays," 9 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Texas Hold 'Em, 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. $5 Cover 8pm.
WOOFS Daily Food Specials.

WED 06.07

AMSTERDAM. All-day Long Island Tea specials.
BLAKE'S. "Brain Freeze" trivia w/Ruby Redd, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
FELIX'S. Jackpot Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Hump Day Party, music and fun.
HERETIC. Boys Night Out Dress Code Party with DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m., no cover
HOEDOWNS. Free Dance Lessons, 8 p.m.
JUNGLE. Southern line dancing, 7-9 p.m. and Guest performers, DJs and bartenders for the weekly Backdoor Party, 10 p.m.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Video request night.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
OSCARS. Comedy night with VJ Chris Allen, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Dinner and a movie with Brent Star Karaoke
STAGE DOOR. Trivia, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. $5 - 8pm.
WETbar. Ladies' Night Out.
WOOFS Trivia Night, 8 p.m.

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5K Run/Walk 8:00 am

PASTA DINNER
Friday, June 23, 2006
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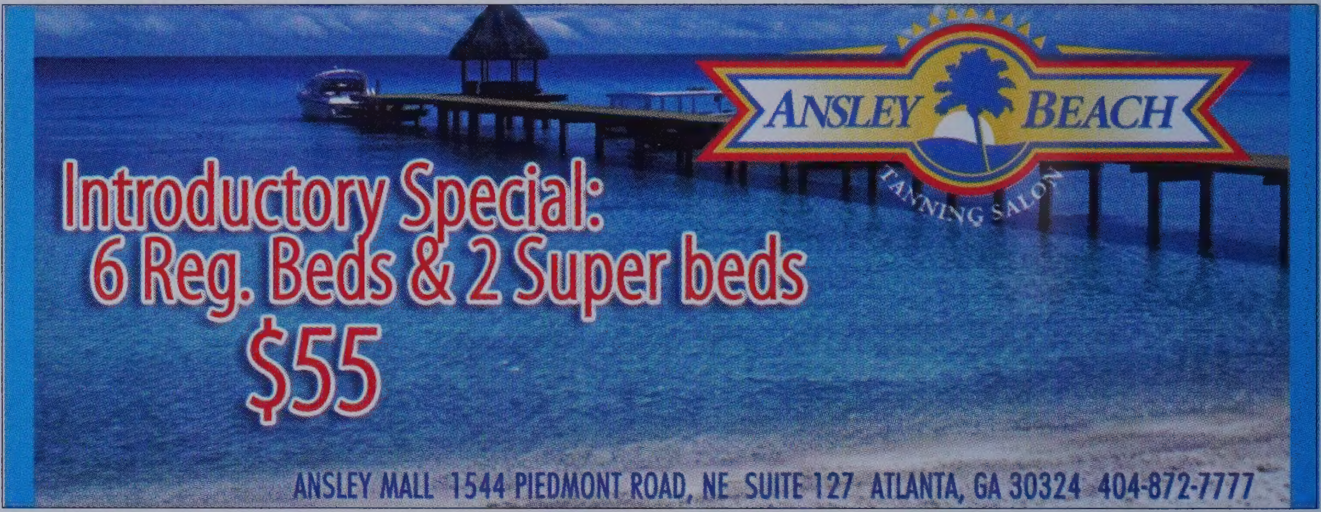

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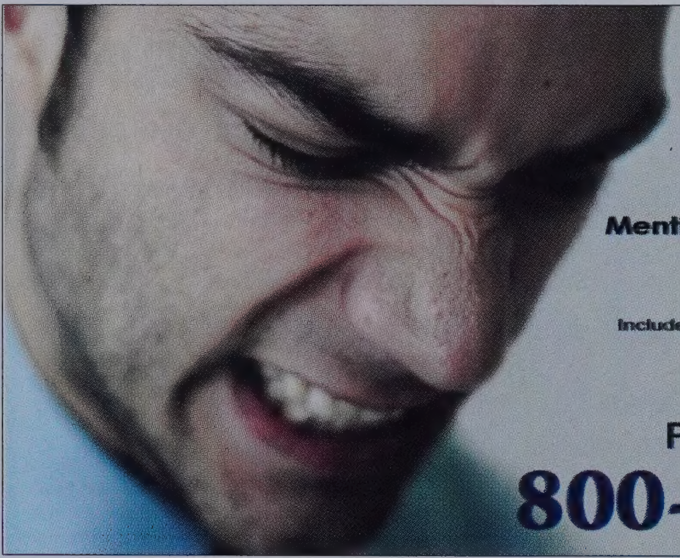

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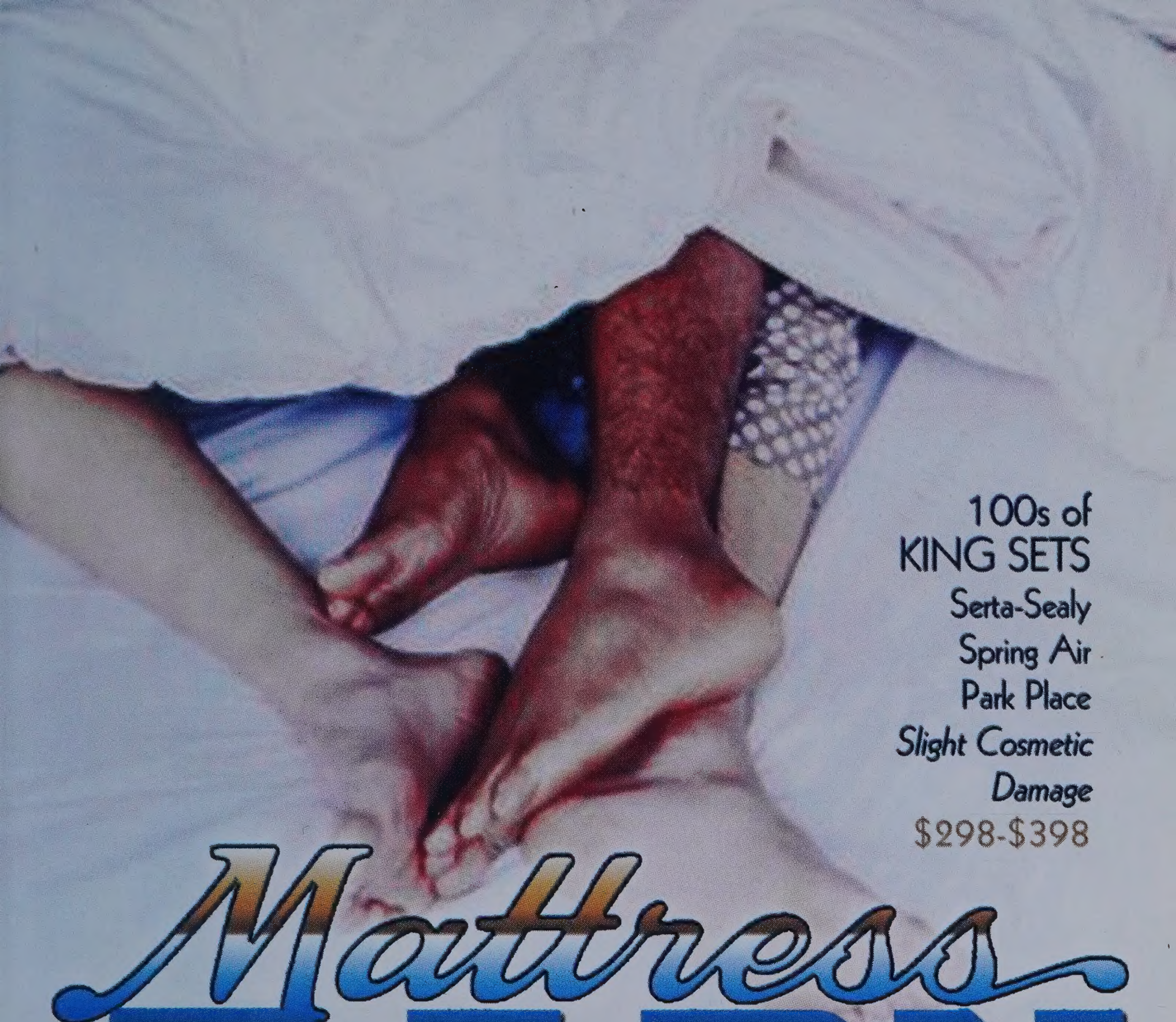

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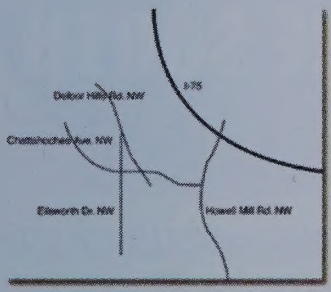
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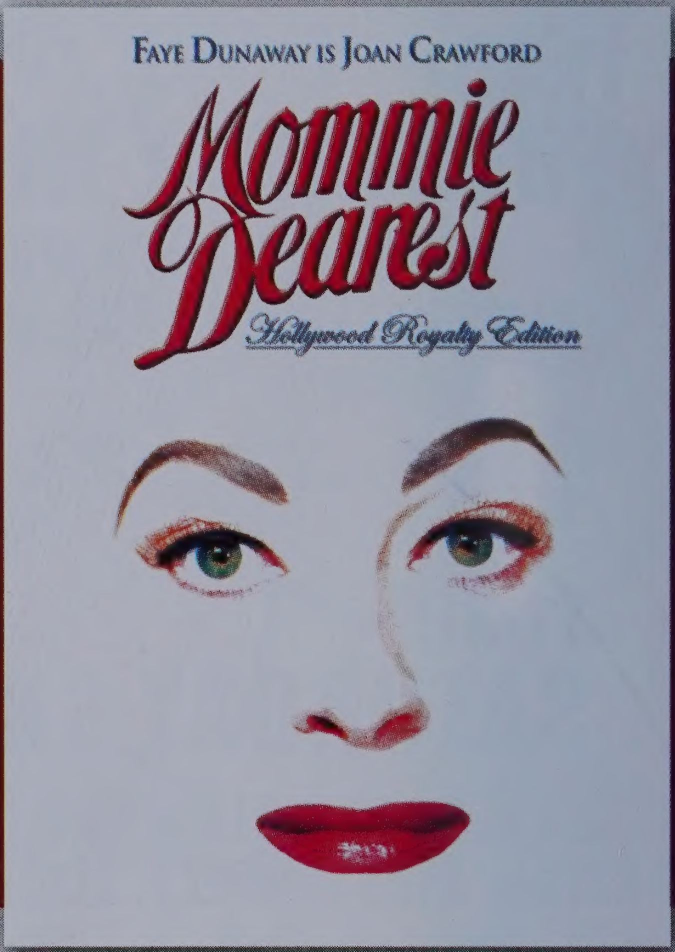
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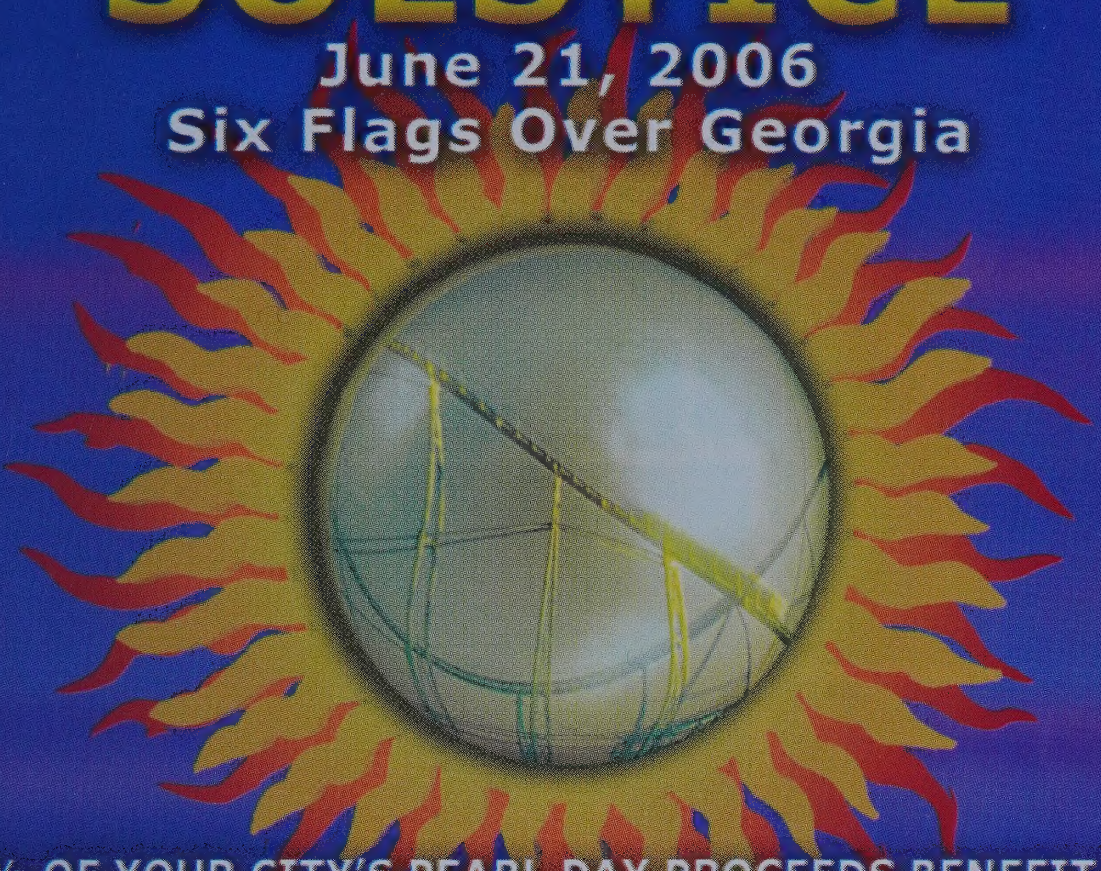

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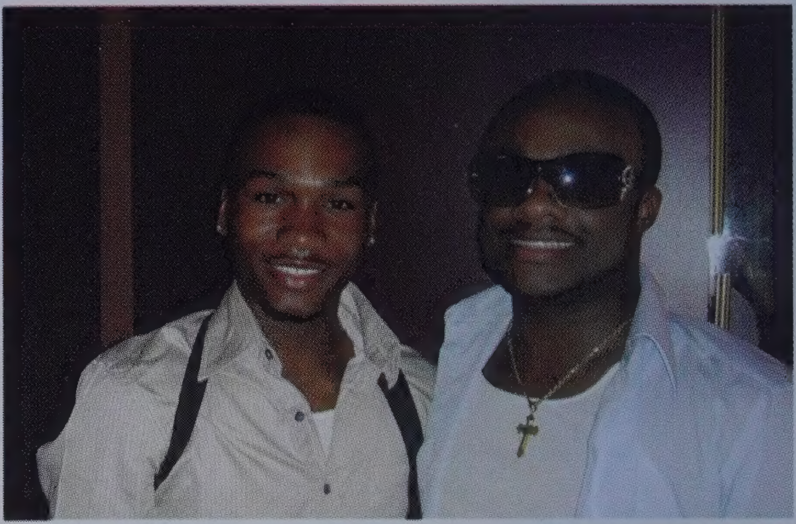

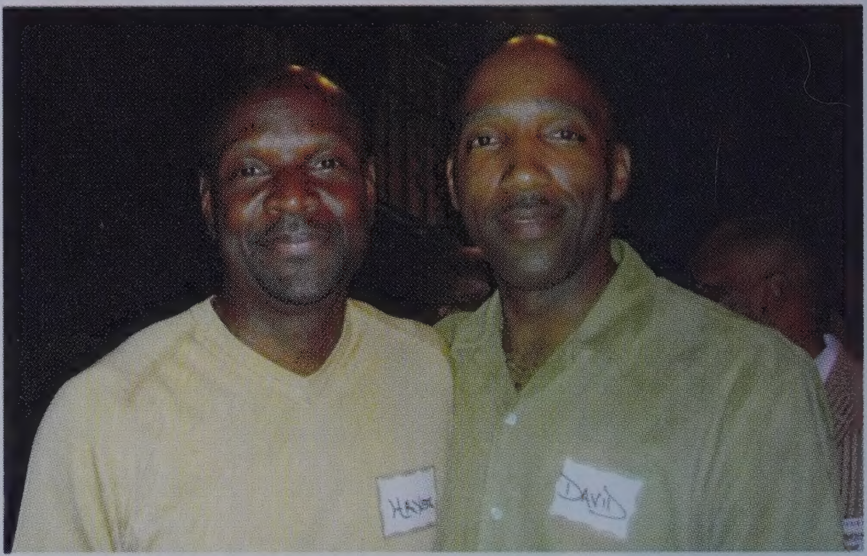

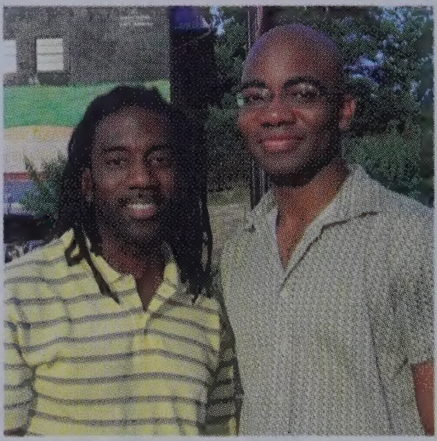

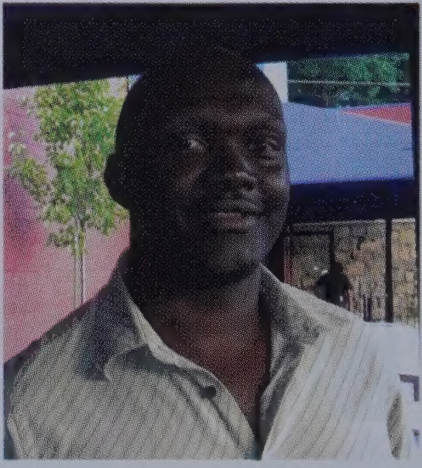

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MAKING THE ROUNDS

BY MIKE FLEMING

NEVER-ENDING STORIES

Last Sunday at **Charlie's Cabaret**, and 'Last Sunday' at **Actors Express**

JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT WE COULD NAIL DOWN **Charlie Brown**, the Bitch of the South shocked the Making the Rounds boys, along with the cast of '**Wicked**,' from her cabaret stage on Sunday, June 22 with news that the venue plans to close its doors.

"I'm gonna address a vicious rumor that's been making the rounds that is absolutely true," Mr. Brown said after the first number. "Our last show at the Underground will be June 4."

It may be the last stand at **Underground Atlanta**, but never count out Charlie and her girls. After 14 years, it was just a blip before the troupe opened its new locale after mean old city officials shut down **Backstreet**. So this latest little hiccup will take even less time for the Queen of Atlanta to burp away: **WETbar's Jeff New** confirms Charlie Brown's Cabaret comes to his Friday night lineup beginning June 16, and **Drag Idol Allstars** finds a place at **Red Chair** on Wednesdays.

Charlie also tells us that she plans a "Las Vegas style" dinner show at an undisclosed venue with "major backers" to kick off in the fall.

"The new show will blow Atlanta's motherfucking mind," she says.

And the legend continues.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN HANGING WITH YOUR BOYS and thought, "This could be a gay play"? Well, that's exactly what "**Queer As Folk**" writer **Jonathan Tolins** said to himself — then he made it happen in the form of "**The Last Sunday in June**," which enjoyed a long run off-Broadway.

Now the play about a group of guys watching a Pride parade marches into **Actors Express** in a local production that we must say tops this year's Pride Month To-Do List.

We got a sneak peek at director **Freddie Ashley's** latest success, as well as an eyeful of the gay gaggle during a reception featuring the **Gay Men's Chorus** ensemble **Panache** and food from MetroFresh.

The "Last Sunday" cast, led by **Matthew Myers** and **Cary Donaldson**, had us in stitches one minute and pensively teary-eyed the next. Big props to **Hunter Hanger**, who steals the show as Brad, a snarky horndog who offers few apologies, no boundaries and the most laughs from a lineup of characters that represent a several well-known gay male "types."

We wouldn't spoil the flurry of one-liners that are sure to make it into the local vernacular this summer. Let's just say the play puts a "now" spin on the perpetually told group-of-gay-friends story. Very post-gay.

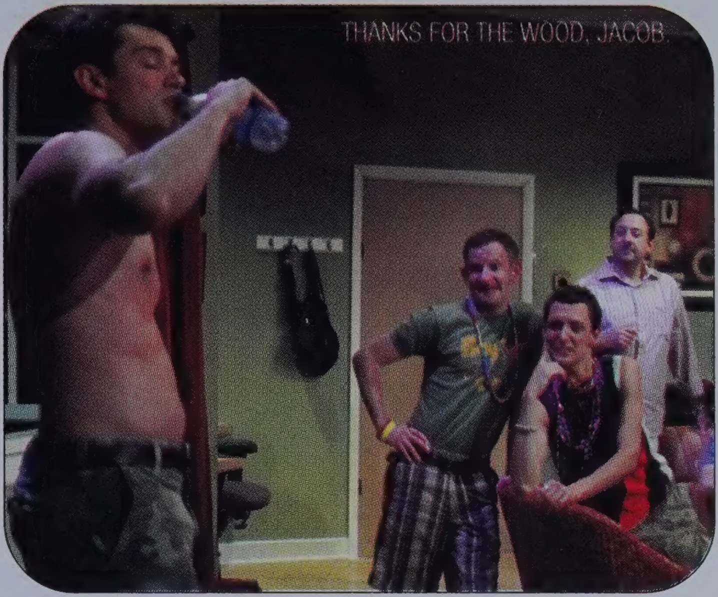
The dialogue is smart and rapid-fire, but "Last Sunday" also features enough beefcake and bawdy humor to keep you non-theater queens entertained. Thanks especially for the cameo that gives the audience wood, er, **Jacob Wood**, who looks even better than in last year's "Naked Boys Singing."

Run, don't walk, to secure your tickets.

And as New York comes to Atlanta, three of our city's own swap us for the Big Apple. We ran into former *David* columnist **Jimmy Hilburn** at the play, and he confirmed he is the latest Georgia boy to take Manhattan. If that weren't enough, we also soon bid adieu to **Dad's Garage**'s **Steve Yockey** and "Last Sunday's" Donaldson, who are off to school in New York's apparent vortex of the universe.

EVERYONE WHO'S ANYONE IN THE GAYTL squeezed into **7Stages** in Little Five Points on May 23 to catch the standing-room-only reading by caustic, hilarious author **Augusten Burroughs**, who never seems to run out of material from his life to set our mouths agape.

With help from 7Stages' **Joe Gfaller** — who we also spied at the "Last Sunday" preview — and **Philip Rafshoon** at **Outwrite**, Burroughs gave us a look into his new memoir, "Possible Side Effects," and reminded fans of the wit that put him on our radar in the first place.


THANKS FOR THE WOOD, JACOB.

*'**The Last Sunday in June**' runs through July 1 at Actors Express, 887 W. Marietta St. 404-607-7469, www.actorsexpress.com.*
*Keep up with **Charlie Brown** at www.charliebrownscabaret.net.*
*Get **Augusten Burroughs'** latest at Outwrite or Brushstrokes. www.outwritebooks.com, www.brushstrokesatlanta.com. Or visit www.augustenburroughs.com.*

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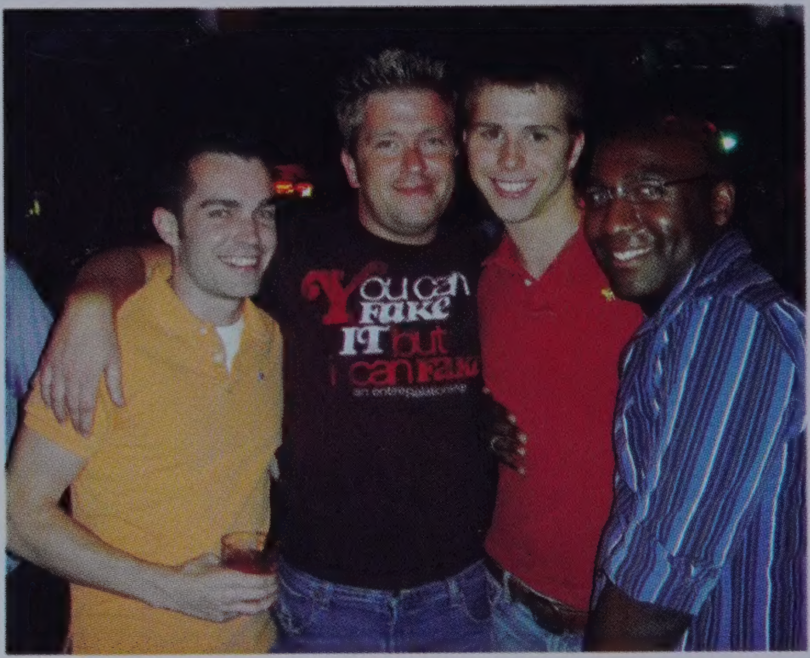
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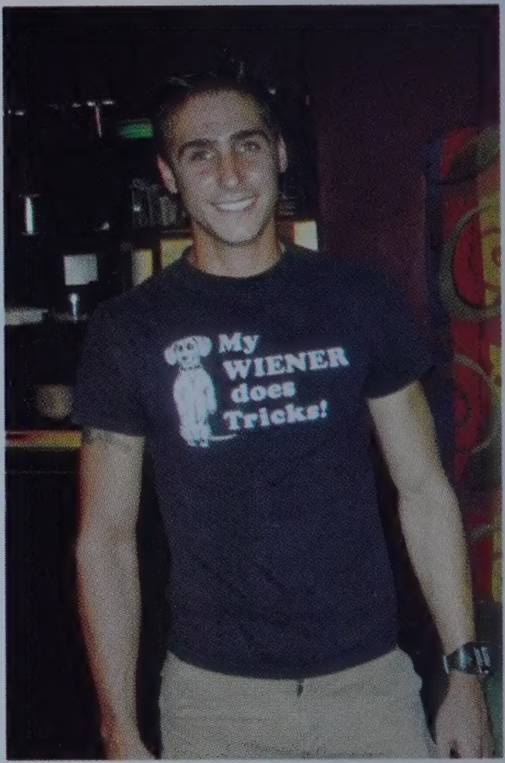
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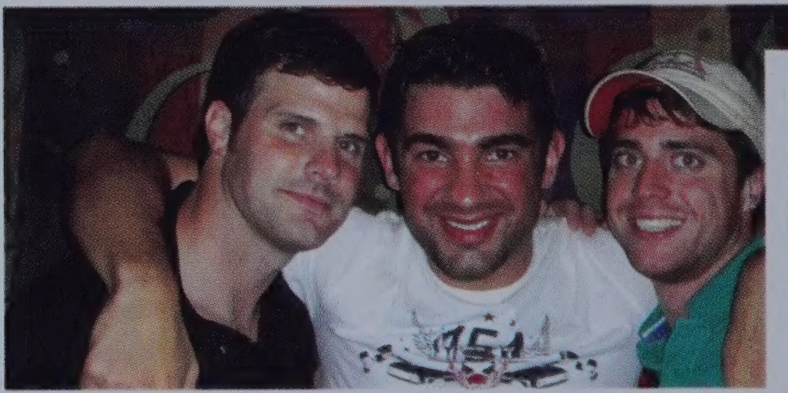

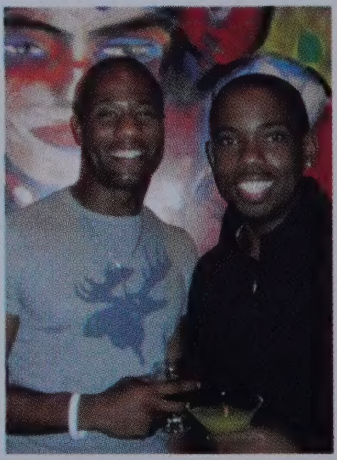

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MOST MIGHTY EFFORT

Kimberly S. debuts remix compilation for Orlando's big bash

FOR FANS OF NOSTALGIA MAKING THE TRIP TO Florida for Johnny Chisholm's annual party in Orlando, Centaur Records is releasing a remix compilation that is sure to help spark fond memories of the beaches and boys at "One Mighty Weekend."

Even if you aren't going down to Orlando, DJ Kimberly S. transports you to that fantasy world with "Party Groove: One Mighty Weekend – Volume One."

Ms. S. tells *David* that the album is "a mix that will rival my prior commercial releases," she says. "This is absolutely my best CD mix to date, and I am very proud of the final result."

The album brings together several artists from the top of the Billboard charts and today's hottest DJs and producers.

It kicks off with the Disco Mix of "Set Me Free" by Ventura vs. Haarmeyer, one of Kimberly's favorite tracks. The piece begins with driving beats and church bells, then unfurls into a sweeping retro-riffic dance groove.

No stranger to the circuit scene or dance remixes, Loleatta Holloway kicks ass in the Johnny Vicious Mix of "The Beast." Kimberly makes great use of Holloway's huge vocals. The track is reminiscent of Holloway's previous work with Marky Mark & the Funky Bunch and Black Box, among others, but definitely was crafted for today's dance floor.

A STAND-OUT TRACK IS THE VOCAL MIX OF "Grade A Bitch" by Jacques Bauer. Borrowing a page from "Supermodel (You Better Work)" by RuPaul and "Drama" by Club 69, the song is full of attitude and offers more bitchiness than any other song on the current club circuit.

> *"You think you can handle this?/ You think you can dance?/ It's on tonight, bitch!"*

The song is destined to become a summer staple at house parties and clubs, because it is incredibly danceable and funny as hell.

Kimberly S. must like the Freemasons too; two of their remixes appear on the compilation.

The Freemasons Remix of "I Can't Get Enough" by Herd and Fitz featuring Angie Bailey is good, but gets a little repetitive. But their Vocal Club Remix of Angie Stone's "I Wasn't Kidding" is stellar. Stone's vocals are big and clear, and the mix is infectious.

The Club Mix of "Soulshakin'" by Dennis Christopher is a nice nod to "Don't Let Go (Love)" by En Vogue. The chorus repeats the classic line from the Funky Divas of Soul: "There'll be some love making, heart breaking, soul shaking."

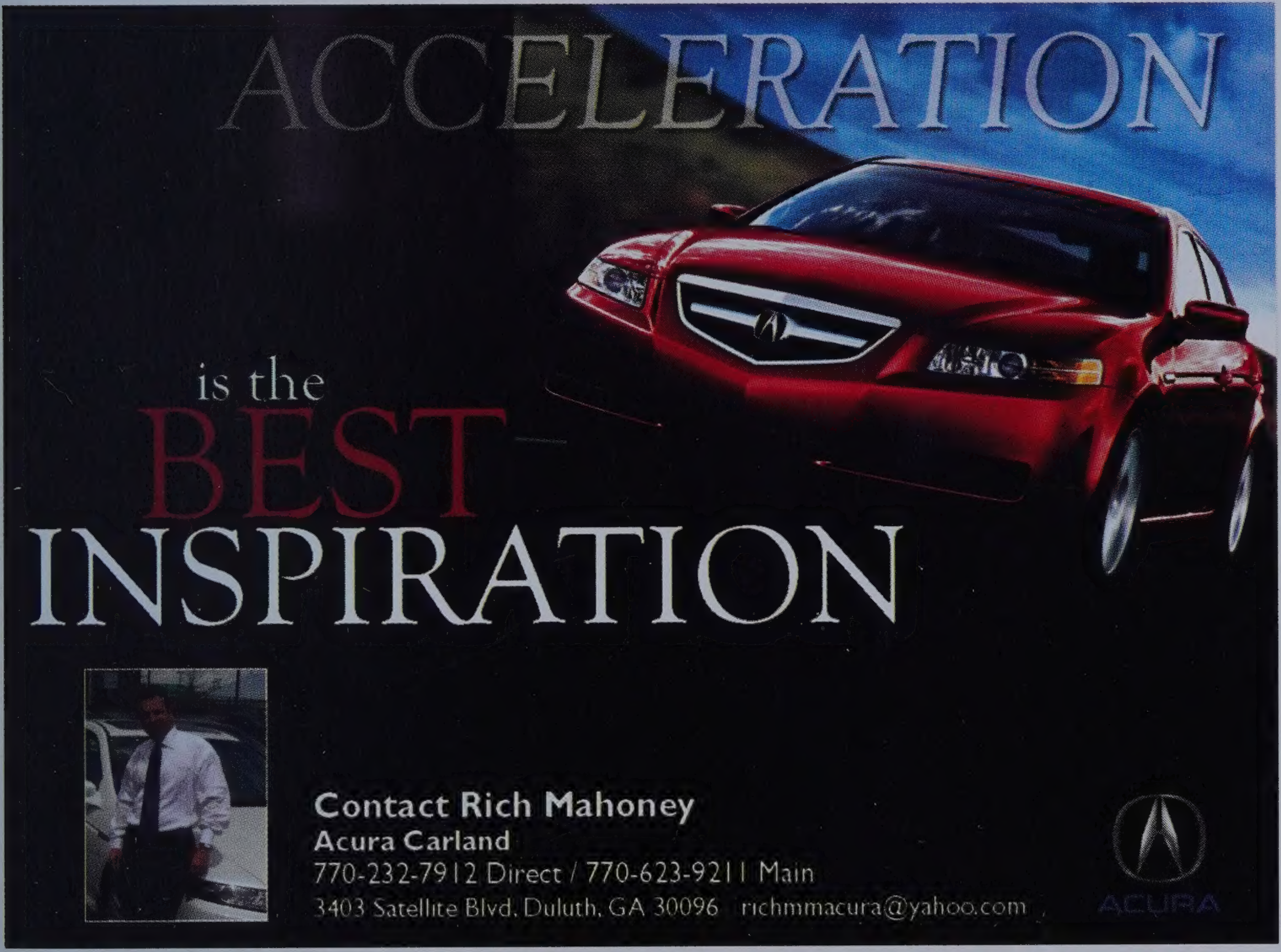
ROUNDING OUT THE ALBUM IS THE CHUS Mucho Drums Mix of "That Feeling" by DJ Chus and the Groove Foundation. Chus is half of the smash hit-making duo Chus & Ceballos, who remixed for Madonna and other big names. This track is very trance-y, but is not as dark as Chus & Caballos tend to be on other projects.

One Mighty Weekend happens in conjunction with Gay Days at Disney and encompasses a series of pool parties and dance events, including Ms. S spinning for Beach Ball at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon on June 2.

'Party Groove: One Might Weekend – Volume One' is available on Centaur Records, www.centaurmusic.com

DJ KIMBERLY S. TOP TEN LIST

1. **"Set Me Free"** by Ventura vs. Haarmeyer
2. **"Grade A Bitch"** by Jacques Bauer
3. **"Keep On Tryin'"** by Antoine Clamaran featuring Emily Chick
4. **"Our Roots"** by Eric Smax and Thomas Gold
5. **"Time 2 Turn Around"** by Denis the Menace and Jerry Ropero vs. Francesco Davis
6. **"SOS"** by ABBA/Offer Nissim
7. **"I Feel You"** by Schiller Heppner
8. **"So Beautiful"** by Darren Hayes
9. **"Let's Get Happy"** by Jesse Garcia
10. **"If I Could"** by KMC featuring Sandy



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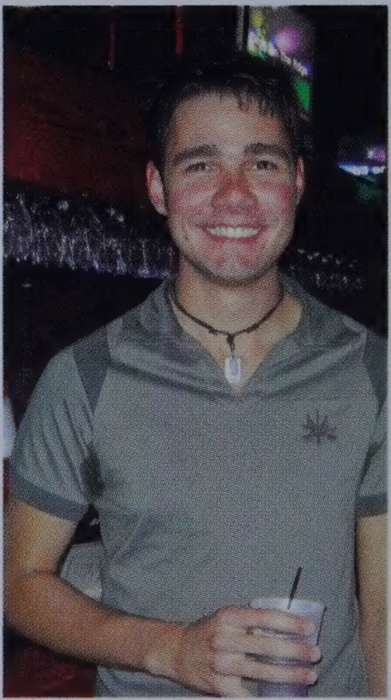

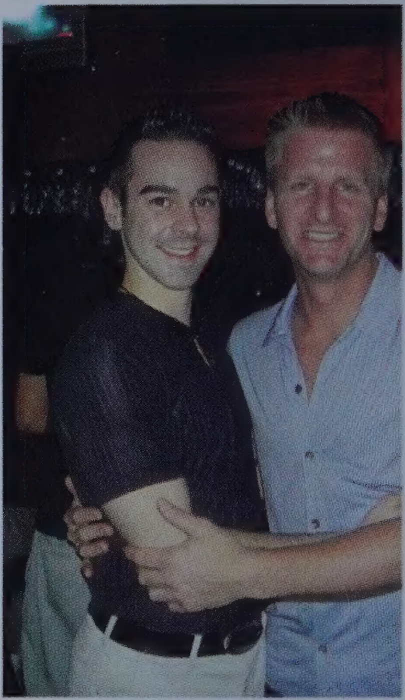

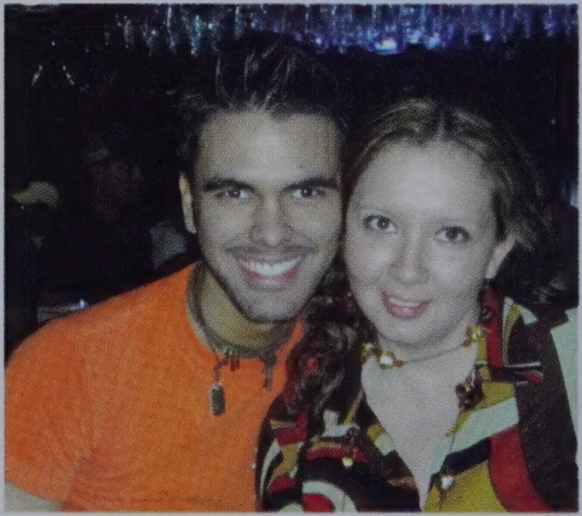

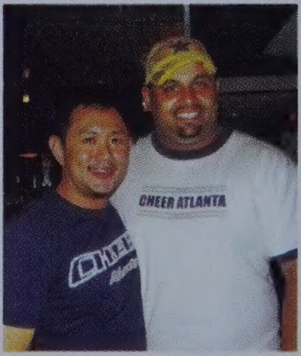
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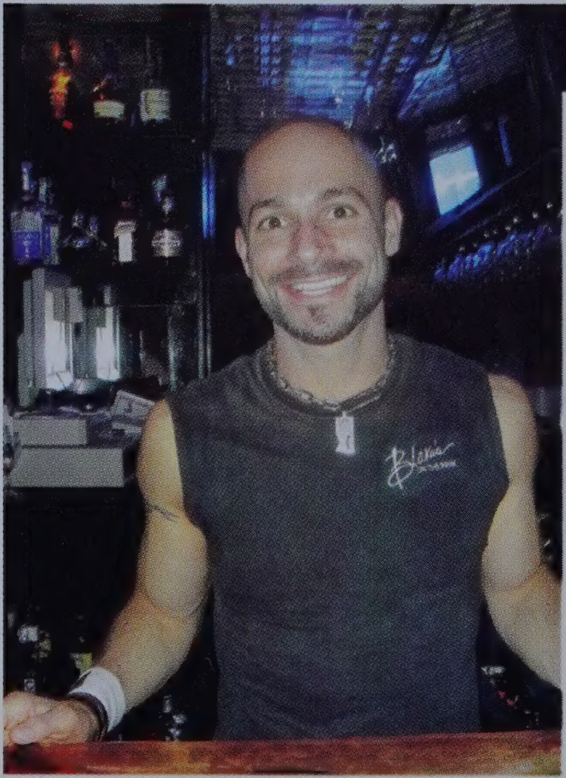

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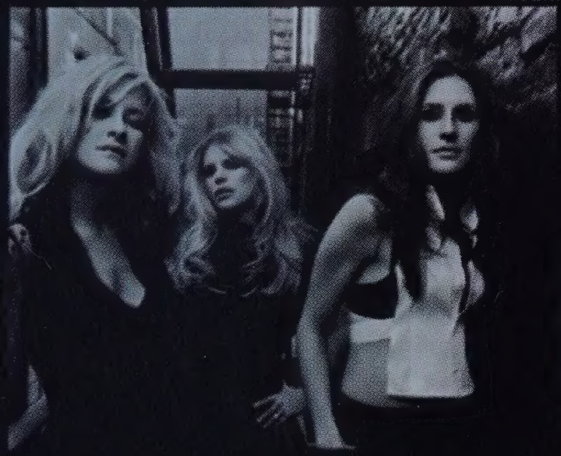

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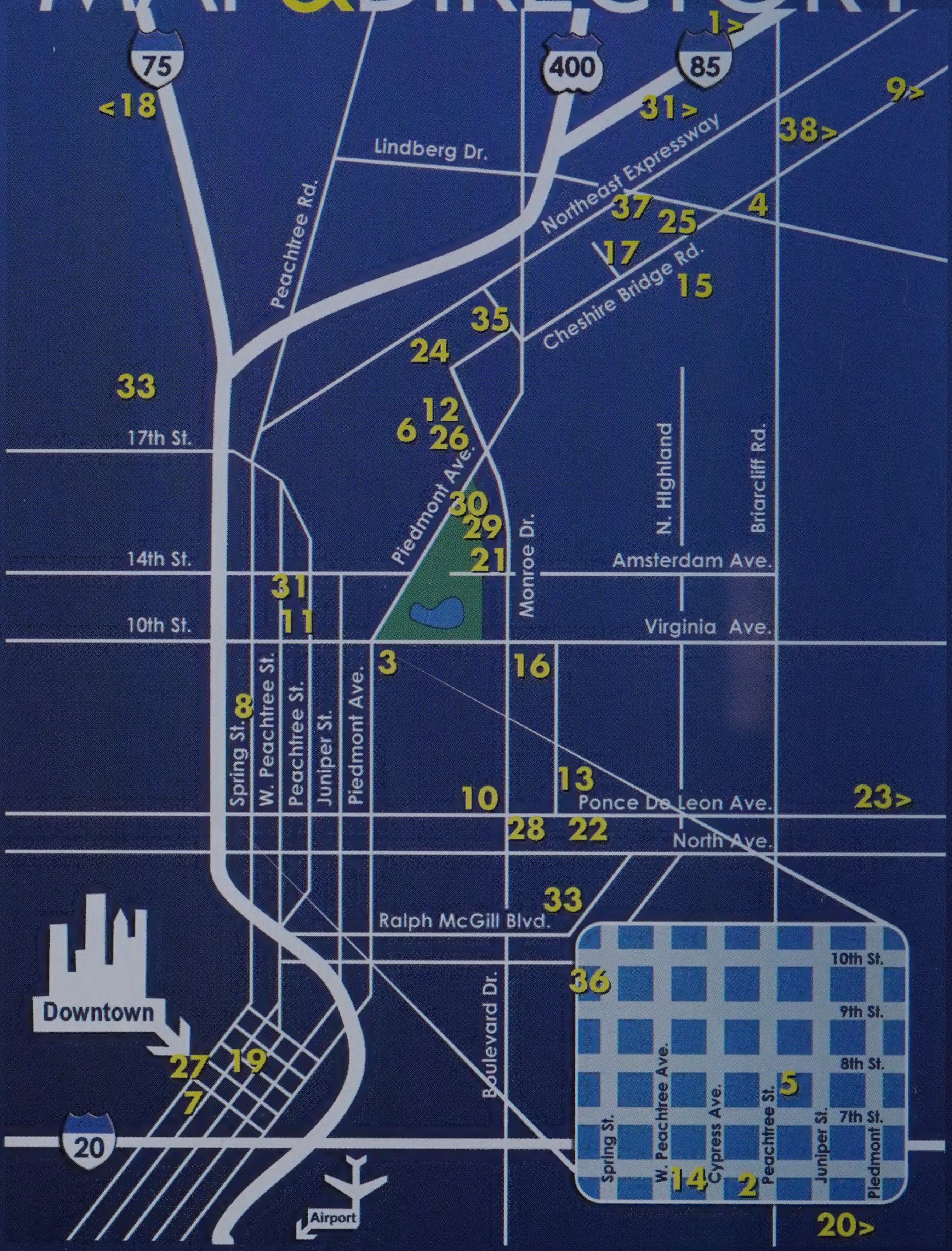
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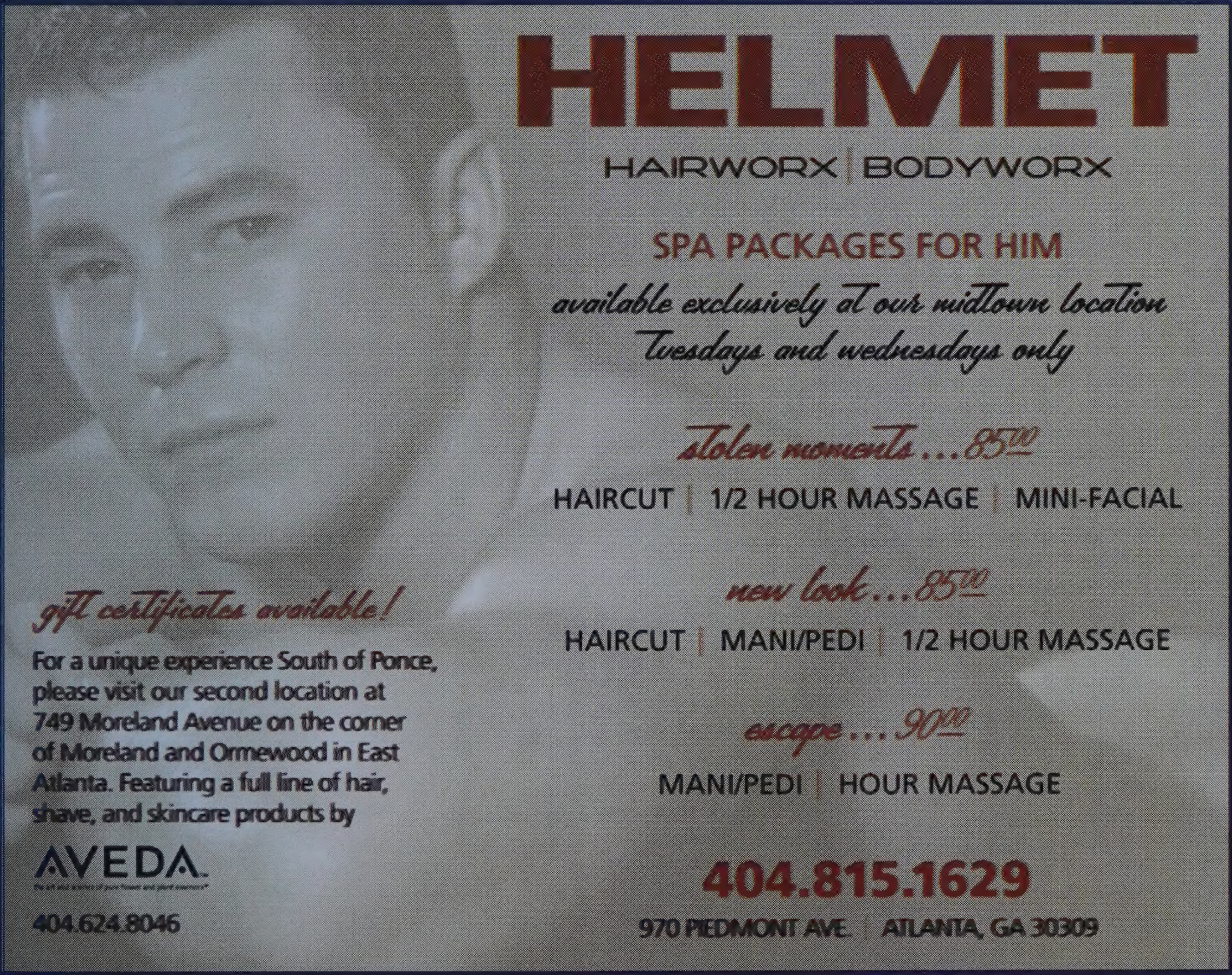

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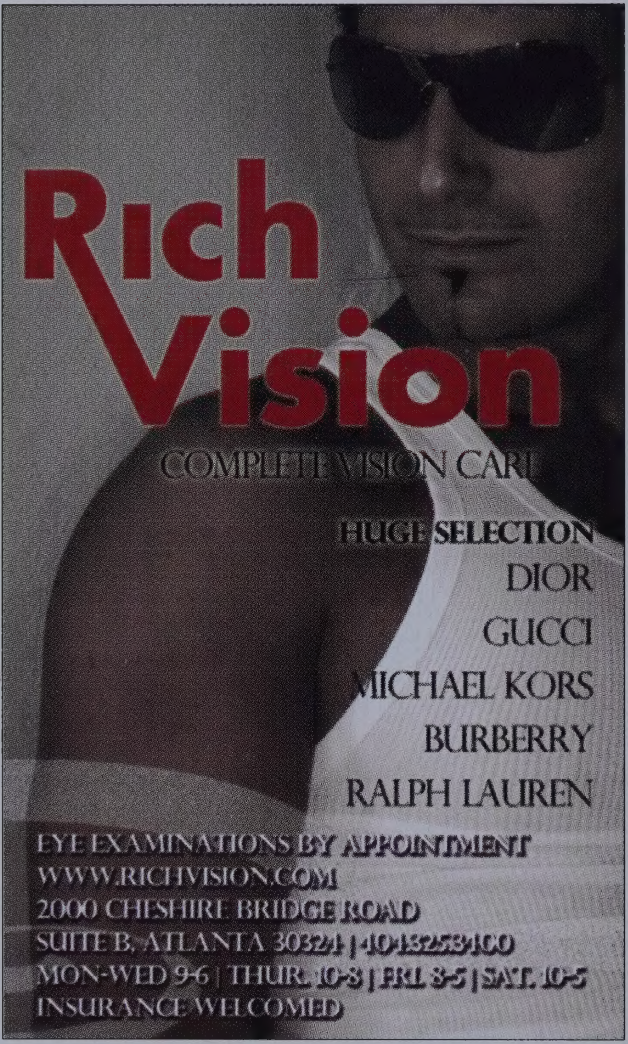

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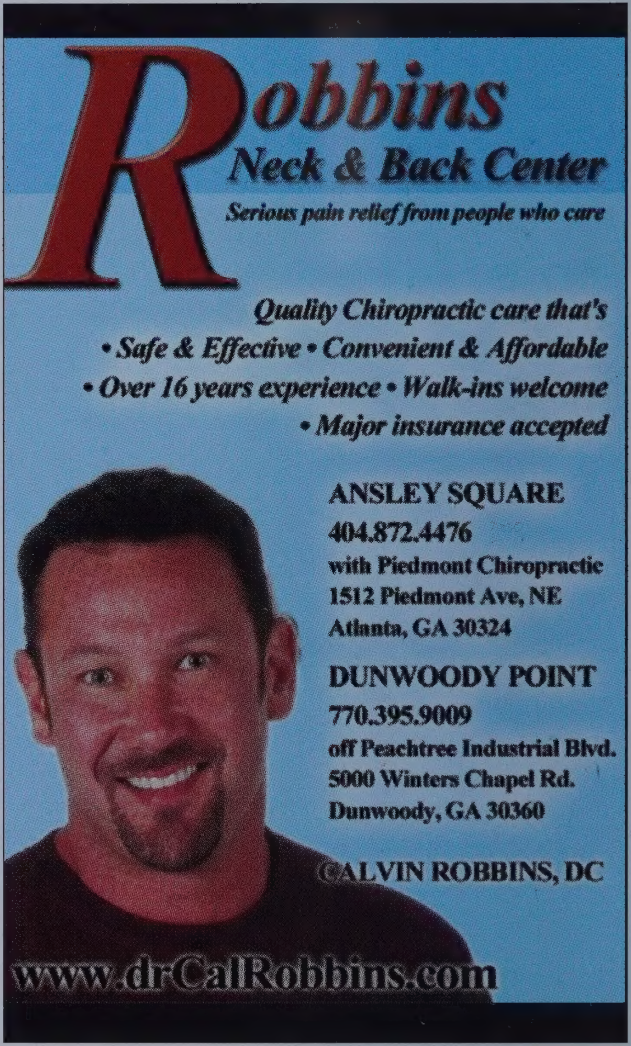

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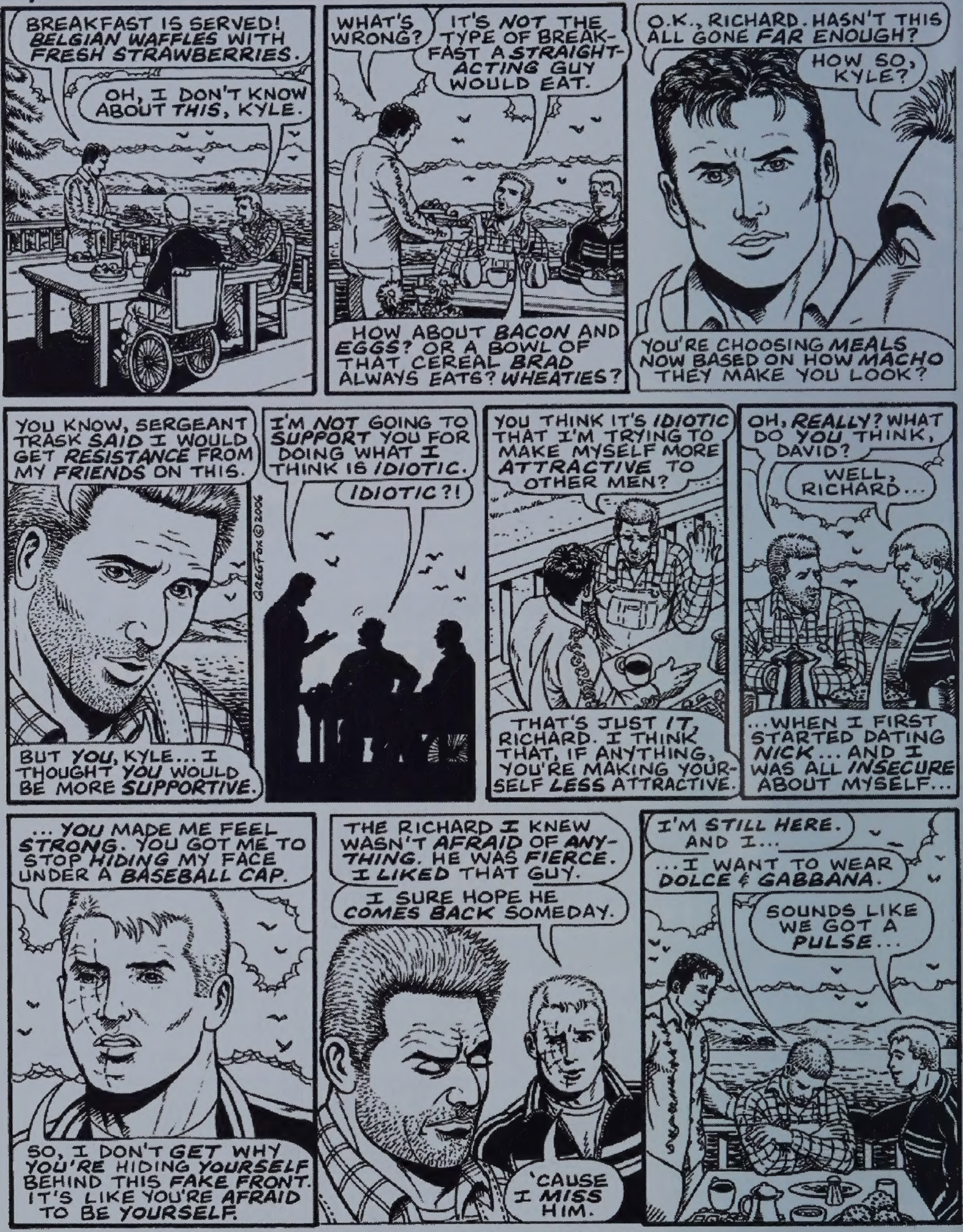
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O.K., RICHARD. HASN'T THIS ALL GONE *FAR* ENOUGH?
HOW SO, KYLE?
YOU'RE CHOOSING *MEALS* NOW BASED ON HOW *MACHO* THEY MAKE YOU LOOK?
YOU KNOW, SERGEANT TRASK *SAID* I WOULD GET *RESISTANCE* FROM MY *FRIENDS* ON THIS.
BUT *YOU*, KYLE... I THOUGHT *YOU* WOULD BE MORE *SUPPORTIVE*.
GREGFOX © 2006
I'M *NOT* GOING TO *SUPPORT* YOU FOR DOING WHAT *I* THINK IS *IDIOTIC*.
IDIOTIC?!
YOU THINK IT'S *IDIOTIC* THAT I'M TRYING TO MAKE MYSELF MORE *ATTRACTIVE* TO OTHER MEN?
THAT'S JUST *IT*, RICHARD. I THINK THAT, IF ANYTHING, YOU'RE MAKING YOURSELF *LESS* ATTRACTIVE.
OH, *REALLY*? WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, DAVID?
WELL, RICHARD...
...WHEN I FIRST STARTED DATING *NICK*... AND I WAS ALL *INSECURE* ABOUT MYSELF...
...*YOU* MADE ME FEEL *STRONG*. YOU GOT ME TO STOP *HIDING* MY FACE UNDER A *BASEBALL CAP*.
SO, I DON'T *GET* WHY *YOU'RE* HIDING *YOURSELF* BEHIND THIS *FAKE FRONT*. IT'S LIKE YOU'RE *AFRAID* TO BE *YOURSELF*.
THE RICHARD *I* KNEW WASN'T *AFRAID* OF *ANYTHING*. HE WAS *FIERCE*. *I LIKED* THAT GUY.
I SURE HOPE HE *COMES BACK* SOMEDAY.
'CAUSE I *MISS* HIM.
I'M *STILL HERE*. AND I...
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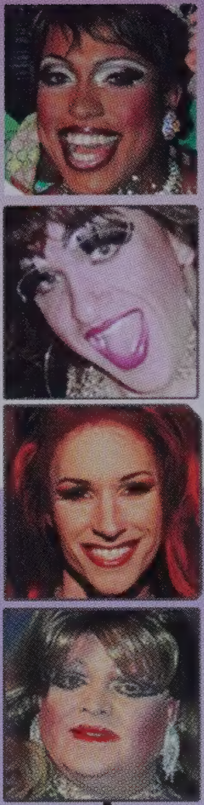

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WEDNESDAY. **Theme Night Shows** with New Host, **Angelica Diamante. Kings and Queens United.**

THURSDAY. **Bad Boy'z & Babe'z of LeBuzz** hosted by **Juwanna Doome** and King Cast Drag King Talent Contest last Thursday of each month.

FRIDAY. **Les Girlzz of LeBuzz** hosted by **Nicole Paige Brooks** and Angelica Diamante. Last Friday of each month: Amateur Drag Talent Contest

SATURDAY. **Les Girlzz of LeBuzz** with **Tequila Mockingbird**

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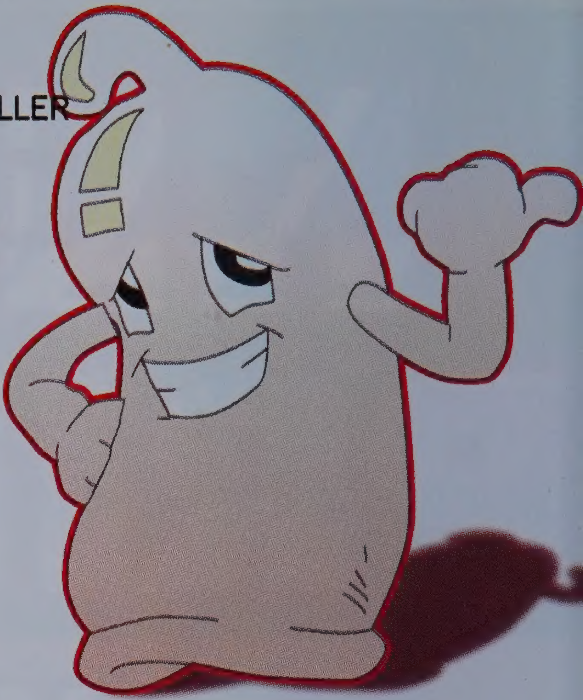
NEED WOOD? BY WOODY MILLER



PERSONAL TRAINING

Relaxing the 'second ring' and an **alternative to latex**

HEY WOODY!

How's it going? I read your column all the time, and I get such a kick out of your responses. I want you to know that I always defend you. I always tell my friends "He's not a heartless bitch; he's a cranky bastard. There's a difference."

Anyway, I have a question. Can you explain the safe/proper way to use butt plugs (other than just "stick it up your butt"?).

Do you use it just before sex or are you supposed to leave it in you for a few hours? If so, is that safe? Does your butt become loosey goosey afterwards?

— ANAL RETENTIVE

DEAR ANAL:

You call me a bastard, and then ask for mercy? Christ, you sound like my dad right before I shot him.

And what was that crap about "other than just 'stick it up your butt?' Where else would you stick a butt plug? Don't answer that.

Butt plugs are toys, so there aren't any "rules." What feels right for you may not feel right for someone else.

There's two reasons to use them: Because they stimulate the anal opening (science for "it feels good!") or as a sort of training device to get your sphincter muscles ready to take on larger cargo.

Remember, the sphincter has two muscle rings. The first is voluntary (you can squeeze them at will—it's what stops you from taking a dump when you read this column). The second is involuntary (you can't consciously control it — it's why you can't stop from taking a dump when you read this column).

It's that second ring, the involuntary muscle (less than a quarter inch from the outer voluntary one) that causes most of the pain in anal sex. If you can relax it you're in for a great ride. If you can't, you'll punch your partner into the next room.

The idea of anal sex is to scream for more, not yell for help. So "training" the inner sphincter to relax is critical. That's where butt plugs come in. If you keep them in long enough, the inner sphincter muscle relaxes on its own. Muscles can't stay contracted forever—at some point they have to release.

You're going to have to use more than a butt plug to stretch the inner muscle if you want painless anal sex. So gradually introduce bigger and bigger dildos until you can insert one the size of your partner's penis without pain.

Let me say that again, WITHOUT PAIN. Remember, pain is a signal that something's wrong. You know that burning sensation you feel when you're taking in your partner? It means you're stretching the sphincter too much and causing micro-tears.

God help you if you're not using a condom because you just created a transmission route and put yourself at major risk for HIV and other STDs. If you do it right (lots of elasticity training of the sphincter), you shouldn't have any pain during anal sex. Discomfort maybe, but not pain.

HEY WOODY!

I want to use condoms, but I'm allergic to latex. What other choices do I have?

— SCARED BOTTOM

DEAR SCARED:

Your best bets are the polyurethane condoms like "Avanti" and "Trojan Supra." They're at least twice as thin and strong as latex. They're nonporous and non-permeable to all viruses, including HIV.

You can even use it with oil-based lubricants (oil destroys latex condoms). The Supra is practically invisible on an erect penis, but here's the problem: It's only available with spermicide, which may increase the rate of HIV infection. Hopefully Trojan will soon make one without it.

Woody is the author of 'Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon.' He can be reached at

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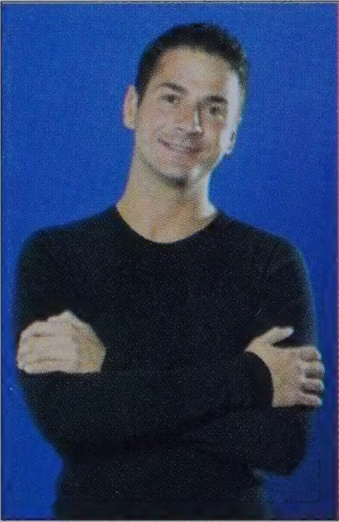

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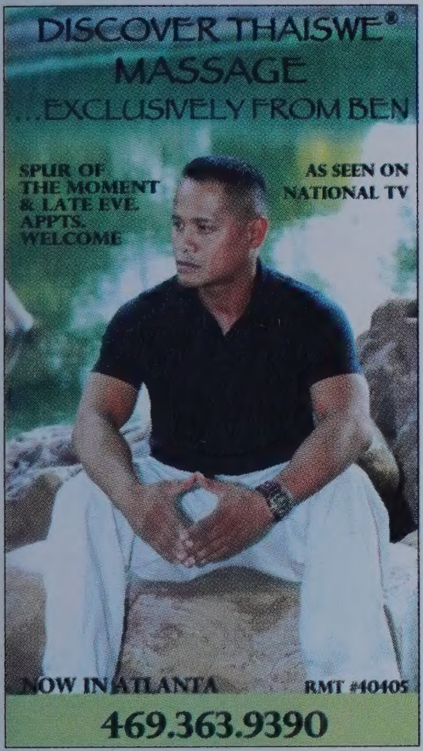

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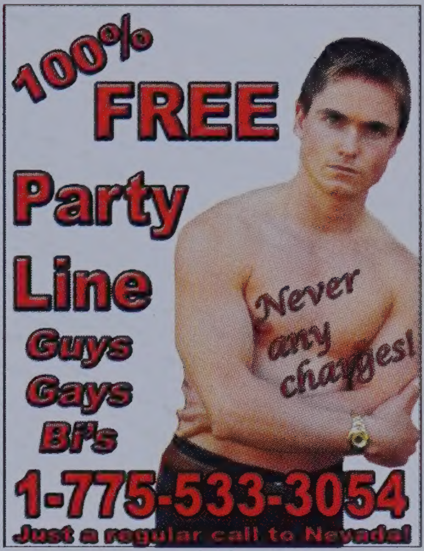

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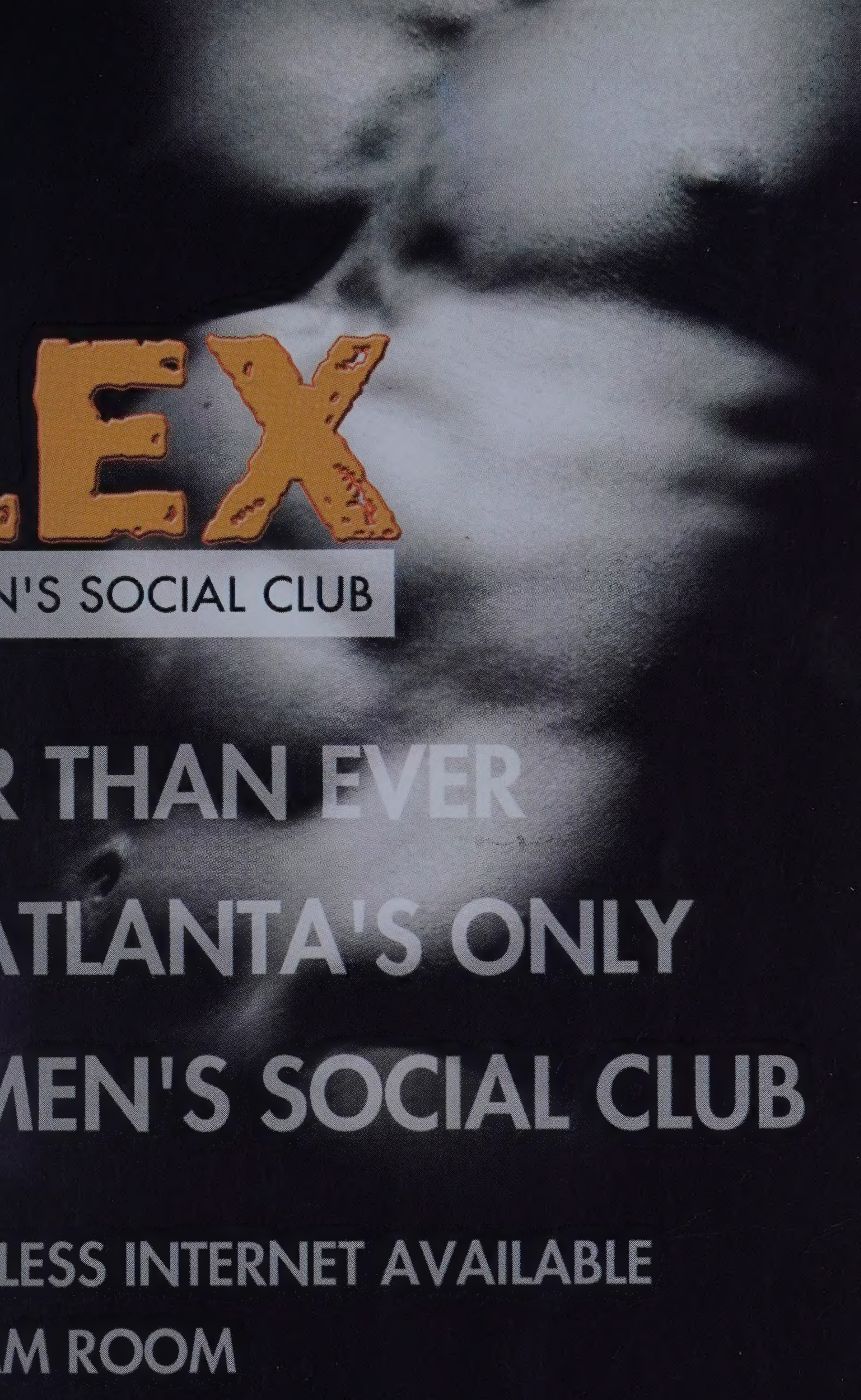

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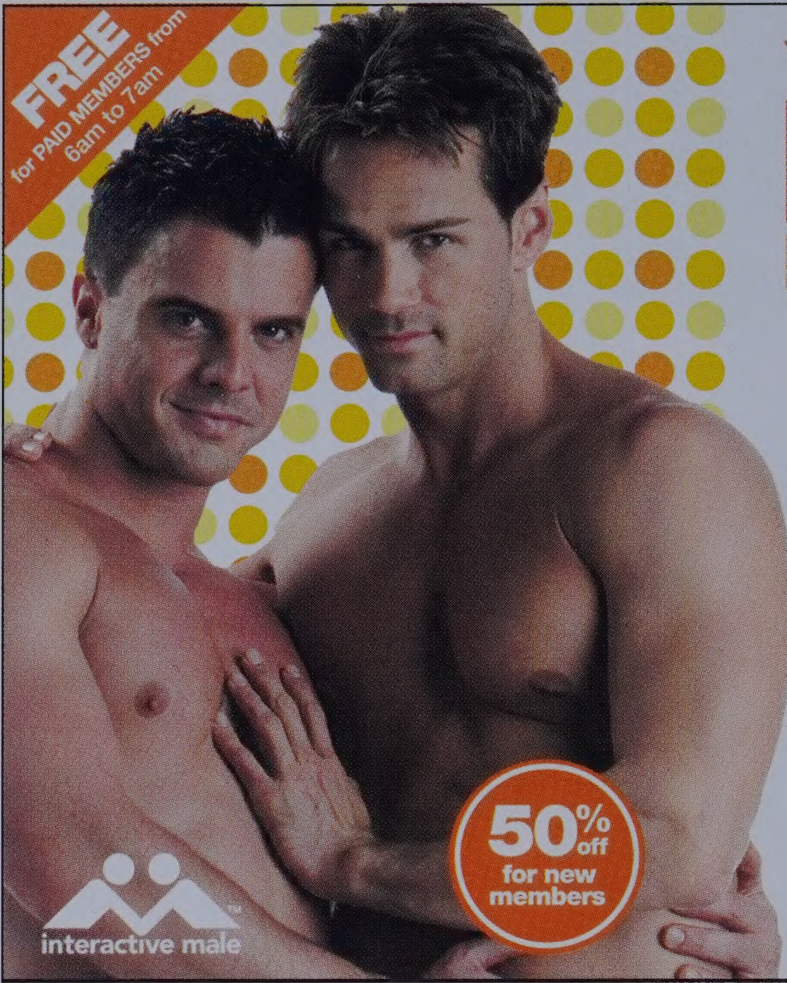

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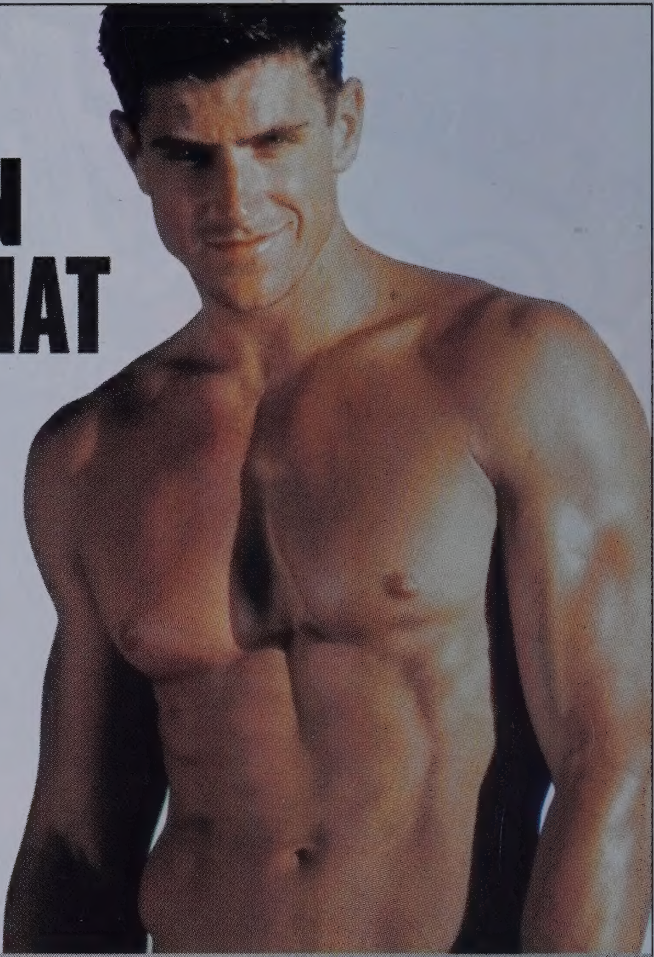

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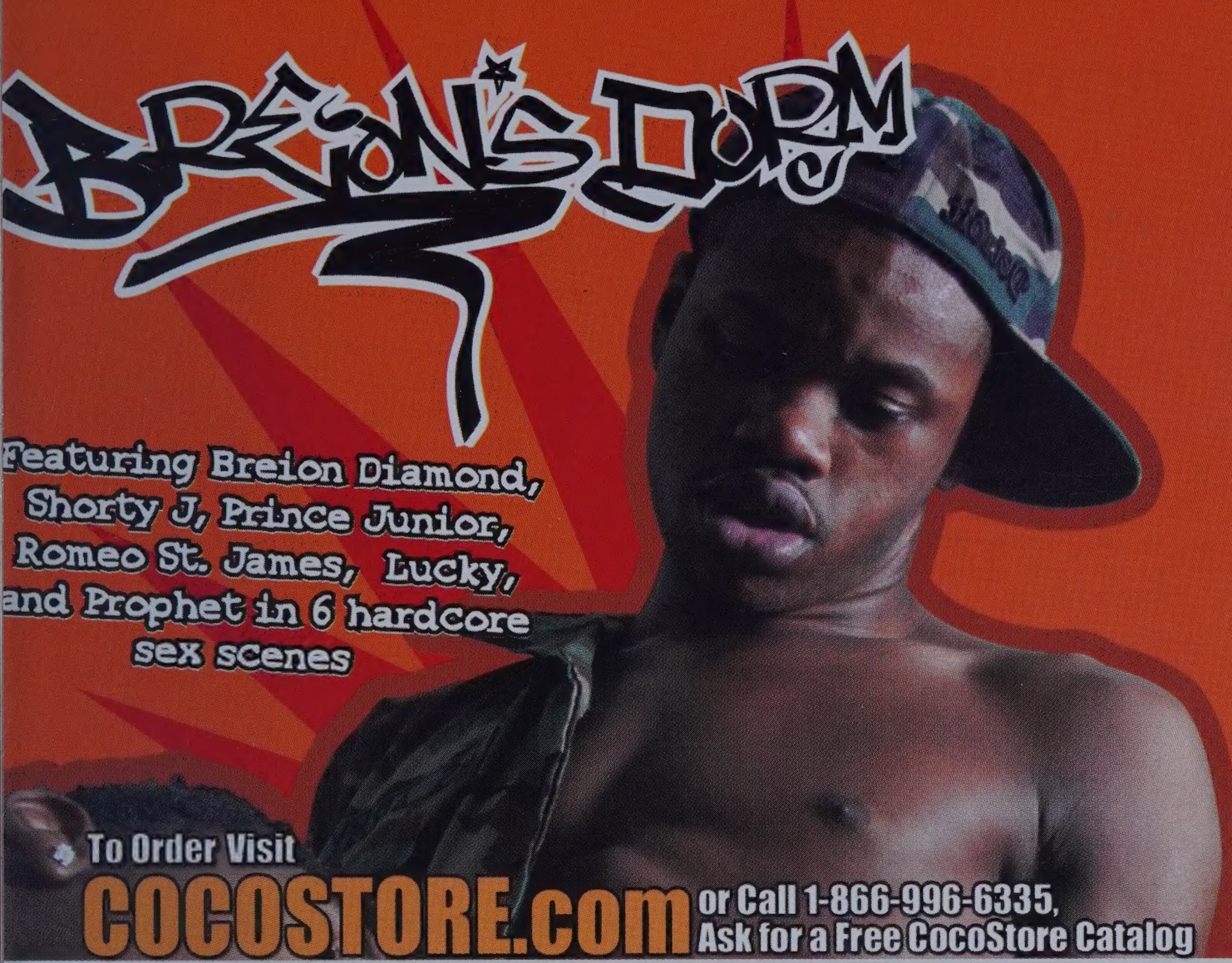

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> "I don't care what you have learned in therapy."

To the jerk who referred to women as "hos": Do you kiss your mother with that mouth? That's what you're calling her, and the rest of the females in your family.

You French-kissed me in the bar and then gave me your number when I said I didn't want to go home with someone I didn't know. Yes, there was alcohol involved, on both ends. Why don't you have the courtesy to return my phone call? **Bitch Boy responds:** Maybe he's still trying to get the coffee out of the other end.

What's up with guys who post profiles on hook up sites alerting everyone that they already have a man, but they are only on the site "for friends"? Come on, people! Do you think we are really that stupid or are you just dumber then dumb?

I agree with the guy who bitched about the games at church. The behavior is obnoxious. If I wanted to see attitude and bitchiness, I would go to the clubs, not church.

I may be big and require two seats on a bus, but I have the strength to leave my house everyday and deal with nasty stares all the time. You freak out when you have a zit and refuse to leave your house. Don't judge me.

When will people get a clue that our government is not working for us and overthrow it by not voting either Democratic or Republican. Get these bozos out of office.

Why would you say in your online profile that your ideal date must have "never been married"?

Instead of trying to pick up the 20-somethings at the gym, try doing a proper workout to lose that paunch.

Having a bartender know your name and what you drink does not make him your "friend." And having some cute, homeless loser taking advantage of you doesn't make you a "couple."

Are there any hot single gay men still interested in a relationship? It seems like all the good ones are in committed relationships and all there is left are weirdos or eyesores.

It really says a lot about how heterosexuals still view gays when one of the lead actors of "Brokeback Mountain" can seriously claim his character isn't gay!

Can we come up with an alternative to the word "attidude" on here. That's such a faggy word. **Bitch Boy responds:** Actually, "attidude" is brand new — and perfect!

What is it with porn web site operators and Photoshop? Some of us like a few pubes on our twinks!

Can we please stop the bitchy-catty-campy weirdness? Has it ever occurred to you that no man you consider "attractive" behaves this way?

Whenever I go out (and it's getting less and less frequent), I feel like I am wedged between the Stonewall '70s and an Atlantis gay cruise. Ugh. Where are all the (yes) "normal" guys?

You don't need a "perfect" body. You don't need "perfect" hair, skin, teeth. You don't need a "perfect" career, home, car. You do need enough self-esteem to take care of yourself, respect others and reject the judgmental anger of the ghetto.

A gay guy is cute regardless of what he wears. I take it you are obsessed with "couture" because you have nothing to offer. If you were to participate in a beauty contest of the animal kingdom, you would rank last.

Do gays deserve civil rights? Sure. Have they earned it? Nope. They are too busy hitting the gym, or buying a new outfit for that circuit party or some other superficial event. **Bitch Boy responds:** Sounds like there must be a bunch of Jane Fonda wannabe straight chicks who don't deserve their civil rights either.

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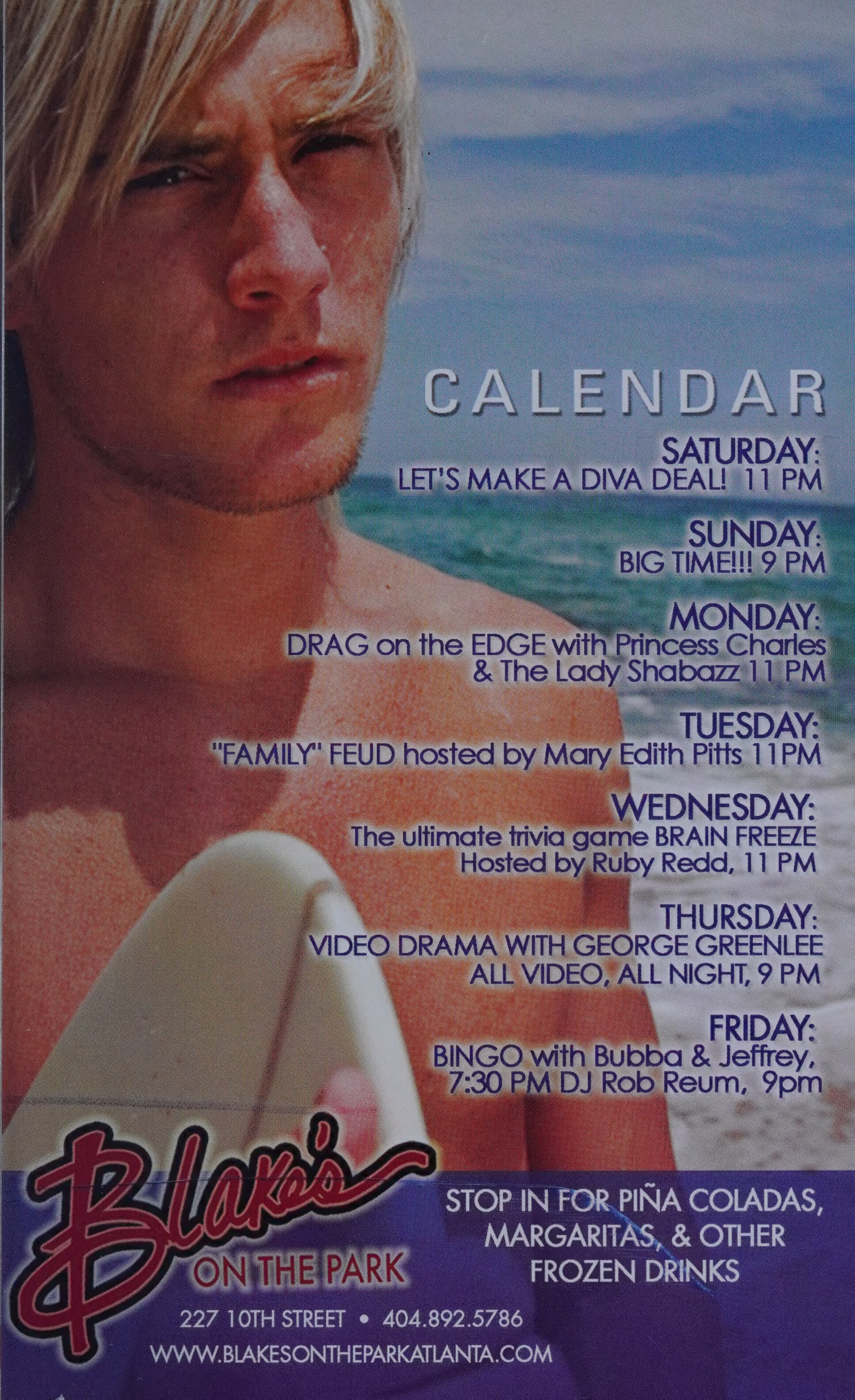

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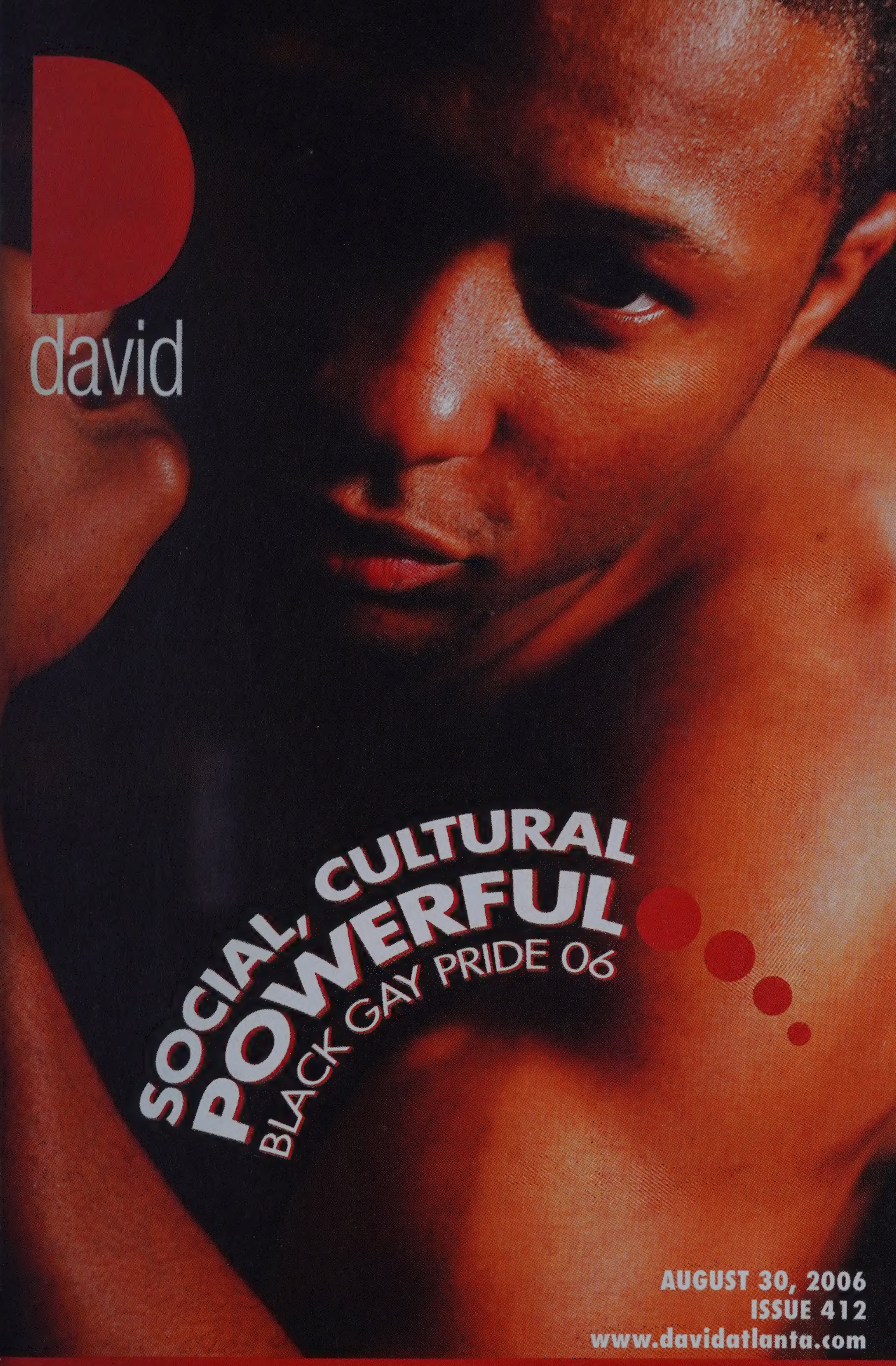

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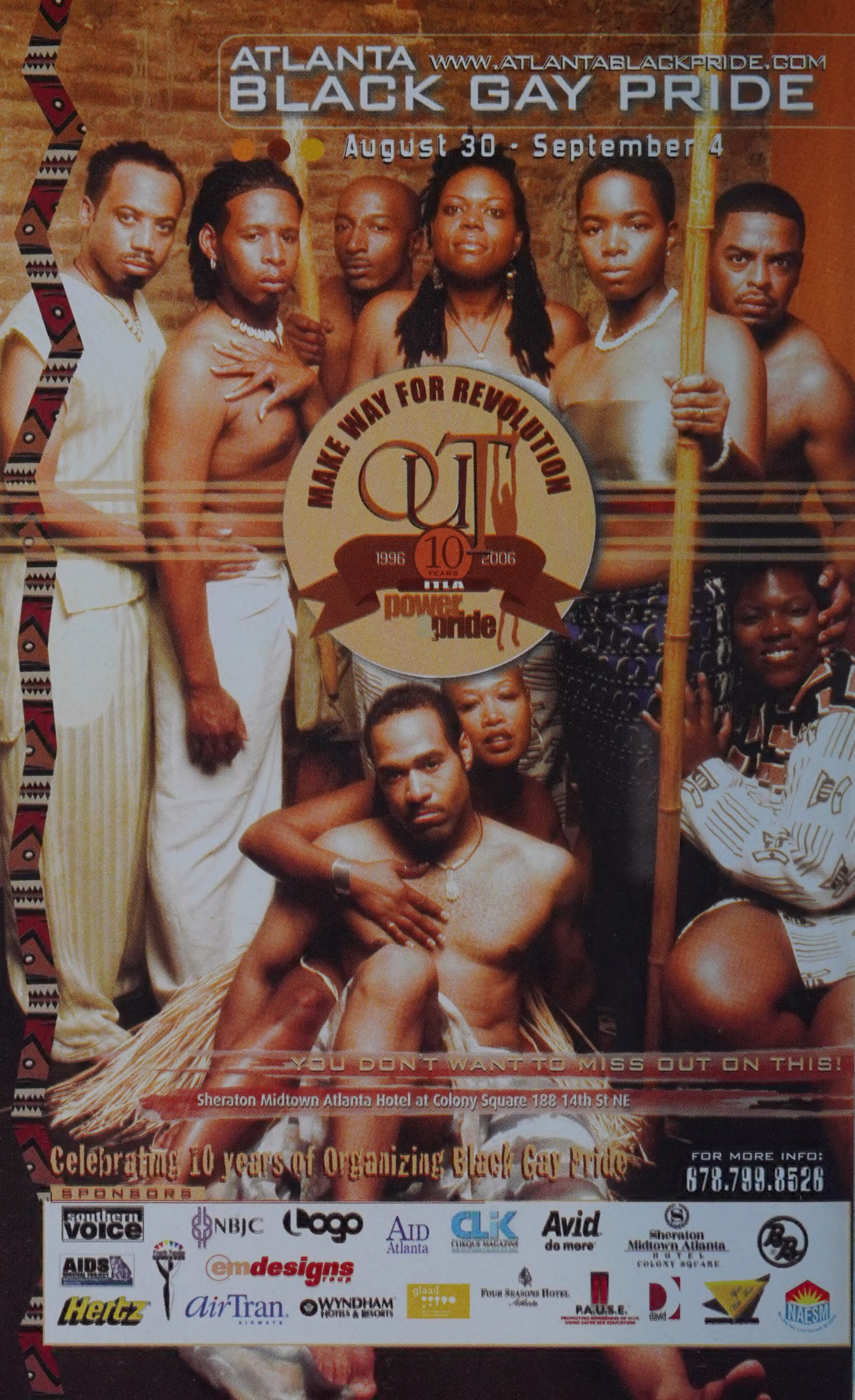

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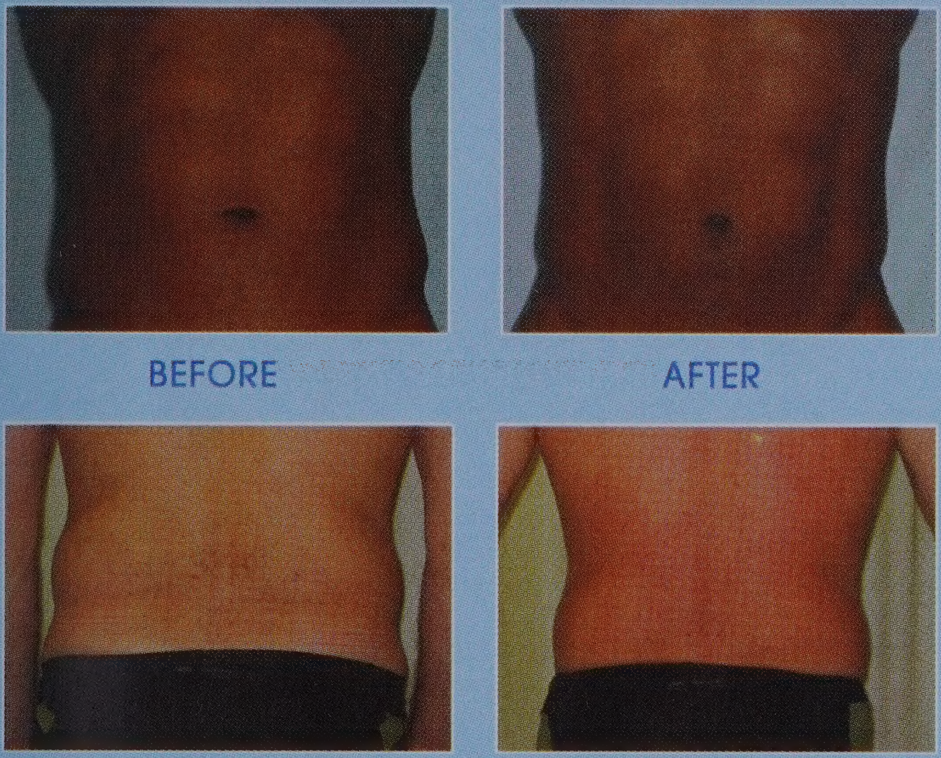

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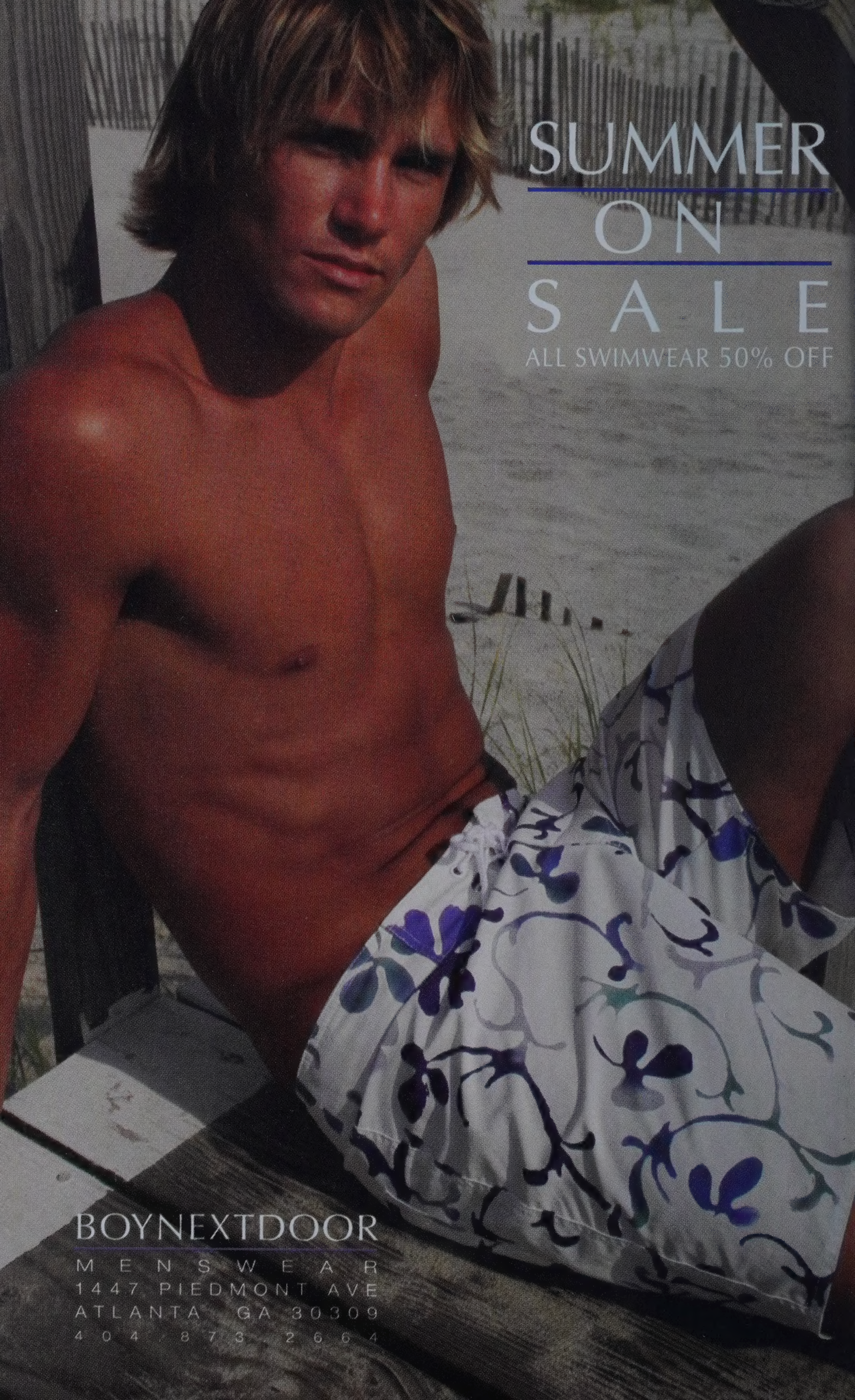
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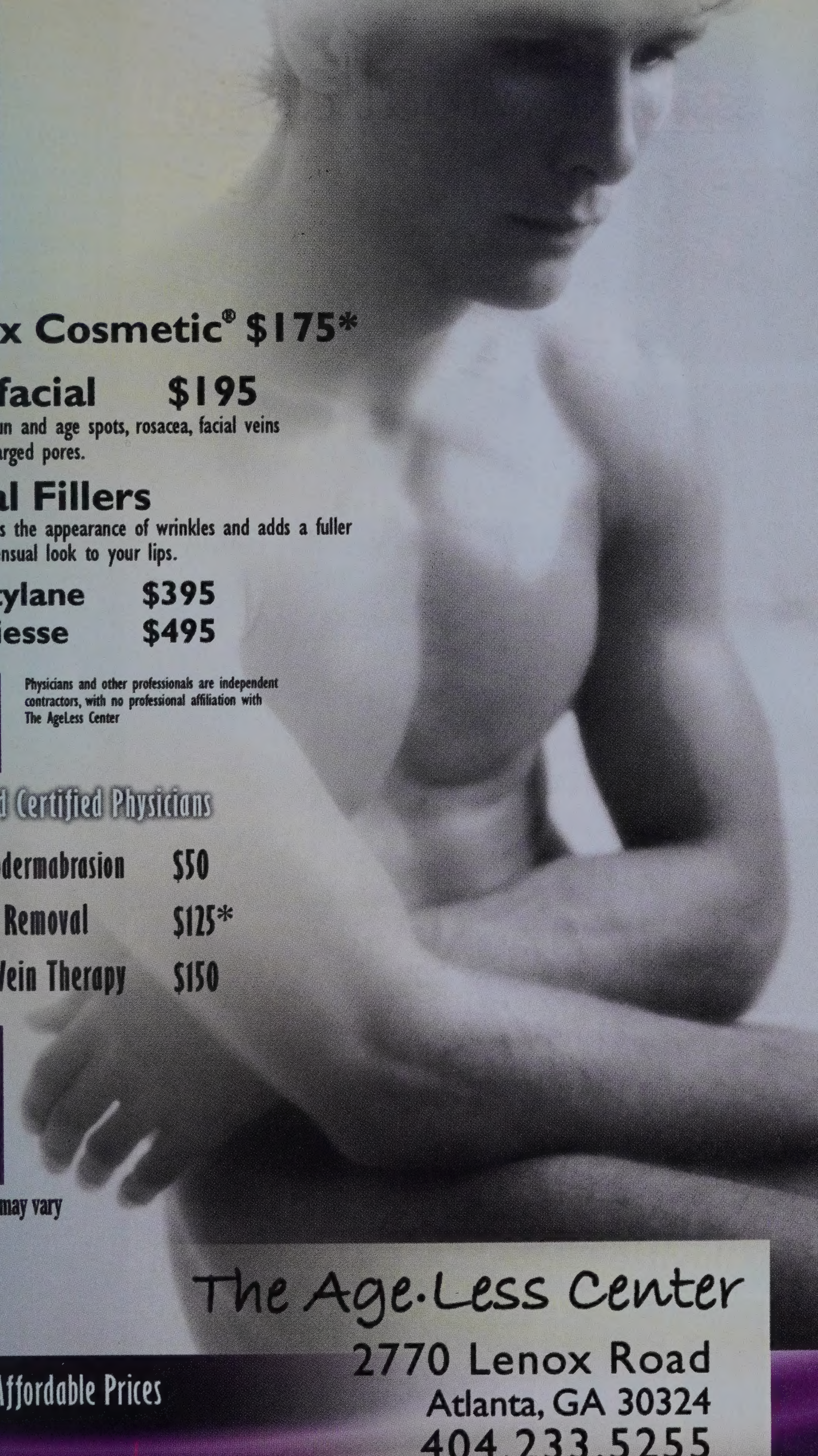

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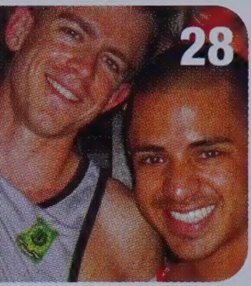

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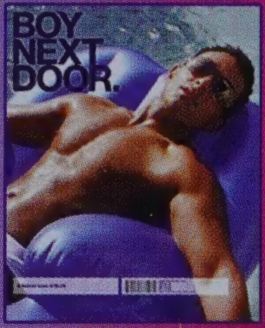
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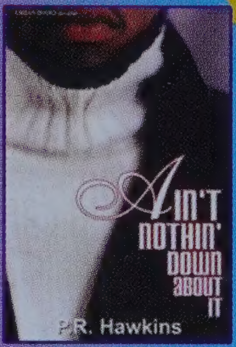
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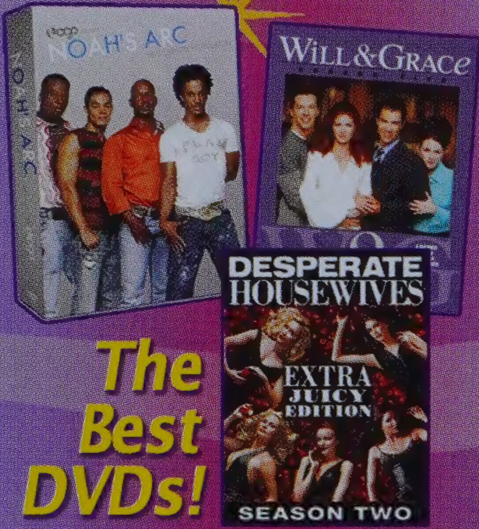
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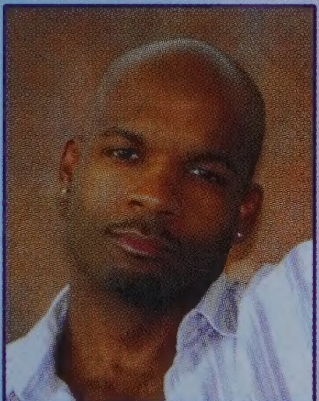

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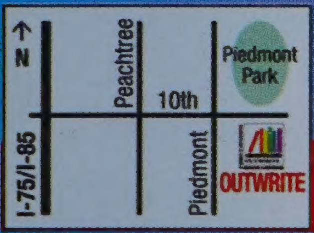
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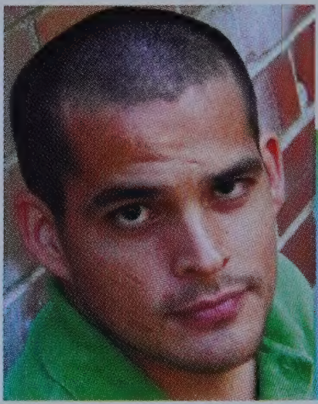
LIVIN' FOR THE CITY

BY RYAN LEE



HUE ARE YOU?

After 26 years, I've reached the **end of the race**

"I SAW YOUR MAN," PAT WATSON SAID, A devilish grin splashed across her 80-something-year-old face. "I gave him a hug when he was on his way out to the car."

My mother, boyfriend and I arrived at my cousin's wedding about midway through the ceremony and somehow slipped by Pat, who was stationed on a bench near the entrance to spot the three of us and direct us to the seats next to my grandma.

Pat is my grandma's best friend. They've known each other since they were teenagers and now live in the same senior citizen complex. Pat lived there first, then put in a good word for grandma, who loves the place except for when the ladies start going on about "Internet this" and "Internet that."

I imagine it was a matter of milliseconds between the time I last talked with my computerless grandma and her calling Pat to dish that I was bringing my "friend" to Danny's wedding. Oh, the deep breaths and long pauses my grandma must've taken during that talk.

After the ceremony, Pat was still staked out on the bench — that's where she saw my boyfriend as he went to get something from the car, and where she and I had about a 10-minute talk.

"I want you to know, I appreciate— appreciate your love," she said, her hand on top of mine. "I really do."

ONE OF THE MOST UNDERAPPRECIATED LUXURIES in life is not having to explain to other people who you are, what you are. It's a luxury most people experience everyday, some more than others.

Straight people take for granted that in most environments they are perceived as heterosexual, de facto. From their jokes, to their entertainment, to their family life, straight folks express and receive limitless messages about their sexuality without anyone noticing.

When gay folks free themselves from the closet, some of those same straight folks ask why we're "making a big deal" about our sexuality. When gay men do something as tame, yet bold, as hold hands, we're accused of throwing our sexuality in peoples' face.

The times I did explain my sexuality — to my close friends, my mother, my fraternity — were emotionally wrenching, but they brought closure to a pain I long accepted as everlasting. Yet, the explaining I've done about the person with whom I love and sleep with is exponentially dwarfed by the number of questions I've had to answer about a trait most people assume is immutable

ANYONE WHO THINKS AMERICA HAS REACHED a point where skin color and ethnicity are unimportant should spend just half an hour with me for a unique look on the subject.

Several times a day, I meet someone new, then watch as they almost always reluctantly ask a question that begins something like, "Don't take this the wrong way," or "I hope you won't be offended," or "I know this may sound weird."

I raise my eyebrows and watch them squirm. I could save them, since I already know what they're going to ask, but it's fun to see how they phrase it.

"What is your race? ... your nationality? ... your background? ... What's in your blood?" (answers below)

I've been called a white boy, a terrorist, a nigger, and most often I'm perceived as a self-loathing Latino, too Americanized to embrace my roots. To top it off, my last name is Lee, so throw an Asian slur in there as well.

I've been asked a variation of that question by people driving cars driving down the street, by store clerks restocking shelves and by roughly 90 percent of the people I've ever met. I guess they need to know which guards to put up.

They don't ask with malice, but are usually astonished by my answer. Not astonished, as much as a malicious disbelief.

Now my answer is "Does it matter?" — to which they undoubtedly lie, "No."

"Good, then what were we talking about?"

***Ryan Lee** is a human American from the South Side of Chicago with O-positive blood. E-mail him at RLee@DavidAtlanta.com*

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MAYBE IT'S JUST ME

BY TOPHER PAYNE

SPLITTING HAIRS

Boldly — and baldly — embracing all things new

WALKING HOME FROM THE GROCERY STORE the other day, I got caught in one of those freak storms that completely floods the city in about 16 seconds. When I finally floated up to my house, clutching my tonic water and salad stuff, I felt like someone had pushed me in a pool. Repeatedly.

I hustled into my bathroom to blow-dry my hair and try to clean up. My hair consistently takes a lot of time out of my day, and still never comes out quite right.

I was doubly frustrated because I'd already done my hair once that morning, then again after I left the gym. So this would be my third styling experience of the day.

I studied my reflection (which always leads to trouble), thinking if it were a little shorter it would really take a lot less effort. As though guided by unseen hands, I reached for a pair of scissors.

Snip.

AN AUBURN SPIRAL DETACHED FROM MY head and fell into the sink. I stared at it and felt a wave of cold panic. That was more than I'd intended to cut.

I looked in the mirror. There was now a blunt chunk that abruptly stopped just below my left eyebrow.

"Stop right now," I thought. "Just put the scissors down and call Laura."

My hairdresser would be disappointed in me, for certain, but she would forgive me and fix this. She could fix anything. But looking again, I thought if I just cut at more of an angle…

Snip.

Now I'd only made it worse. I'd gone and fucked up my hair, my best feature. What would I do now? And here I was, single again and destroying the one and only thing anybody ever compliments me on. Who would wanna get laid by a dude with Kelly Osbourne's hair? This made me furious.

"You superficial bastards," I said to the imagined legions of men rejecting me. "It's just hair!"

Snip.

That time felt kinda good. A giant kiss-my-ass to the men in my head. I had lost all my hair a few years ago when I was in chemotherapy, and swore if it ever grew it back I'd let it grow long and luxurious.

That's exactly what I did, too. I let that hair grow until I felt healthy and normal again. But that was years ago, and let's be real: Long-haired people kick the bucket every day. It was time to let this shit go.

Buzz.

I SWITCHED TO CLIPPERS. I WENT WITH THE longest attachment, and cut my hair down to about two inches long, the shortest it had been in five years. It was kinda trendy, not bad at all.

It felt good. It felt so good, in fact, that I took the attachment off and shaved it right down to the skin.

I was taken aback by the person in front of me. I'd only been bald twice before — first, direct from the womb, and later direct from the cancer ward. So basically this was the first time I'd looked like this without a hospital bill being involved.

Without a big mop of hair to distract the eye, I got a good look at my face. The mental image I had of myself needed updating. I'd gotten older, in a good way. I could see in my own features the sum total of the exploits of the last few years.

I no longer make a very convincing innocent. And I don't mind. That experience and limited wisdom was hard-earned.

I went out later with my roommates for karaoke at Mary's, where every week my friend Greg selects a random '90s pop song to sing as Cher. It has quickly become my absolute favorite thing in the entire history of the known universe.

I sat there, newly single, with my new roommates and my new (lack of) hair, watching my alcohol consumption as per the instructions of my new personal trainer, and recalled the expression that the only consistent thing in life is change.

Maybe it's just me, but I think that's a very good thing.

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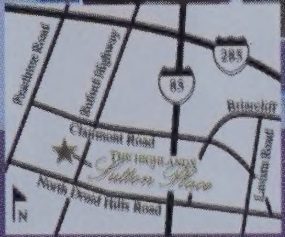
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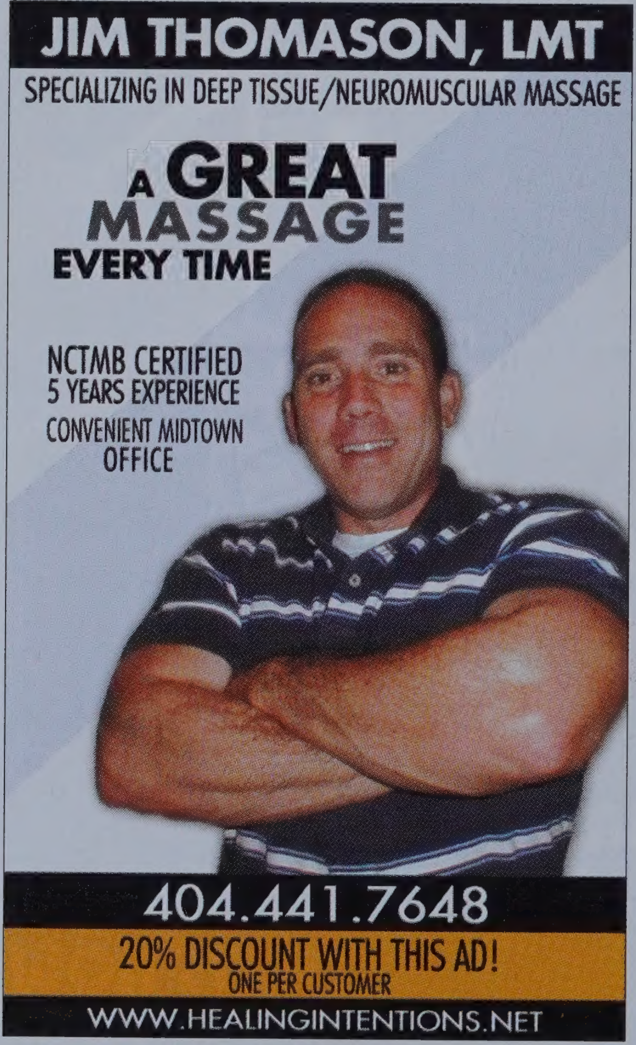

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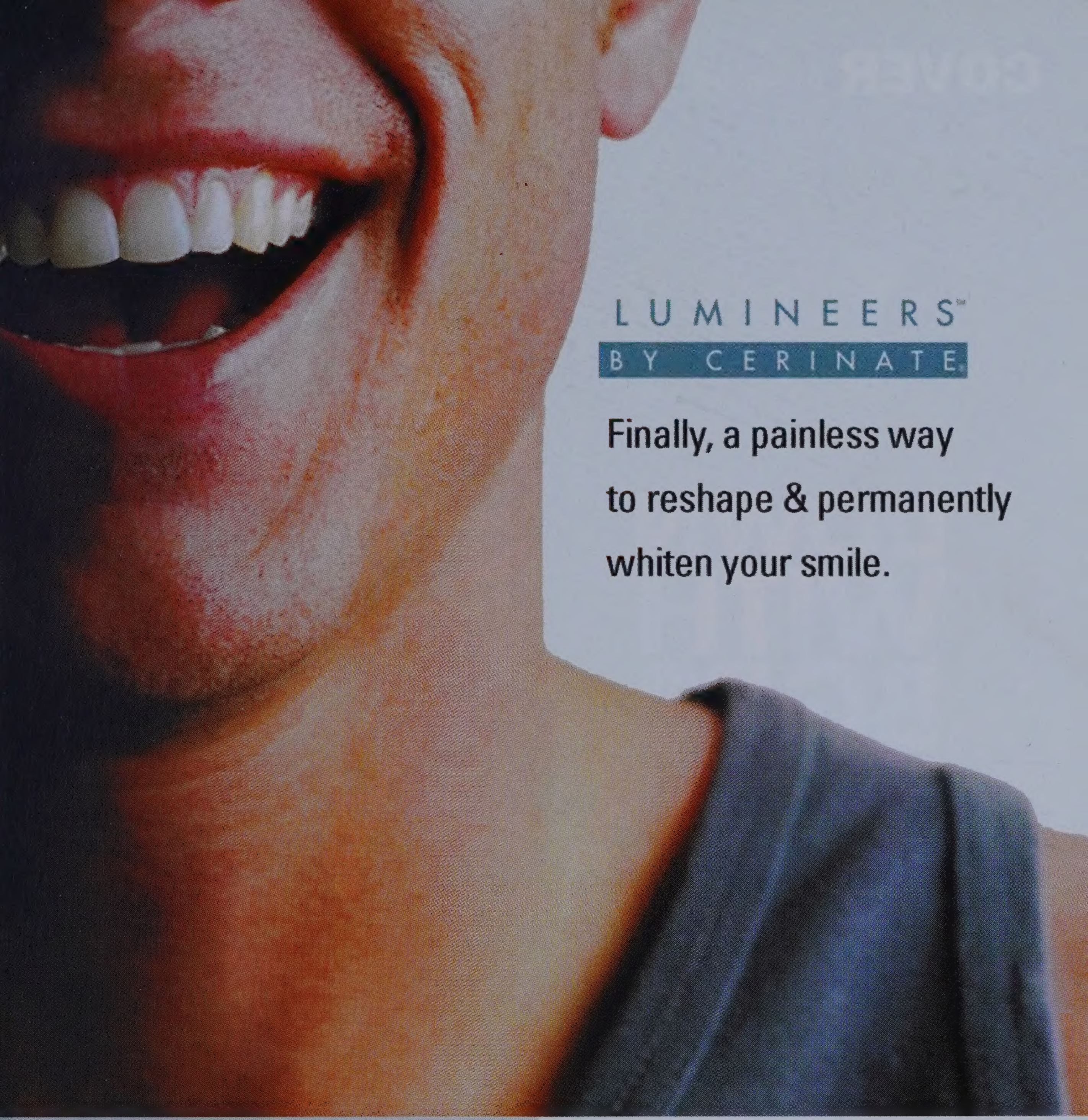
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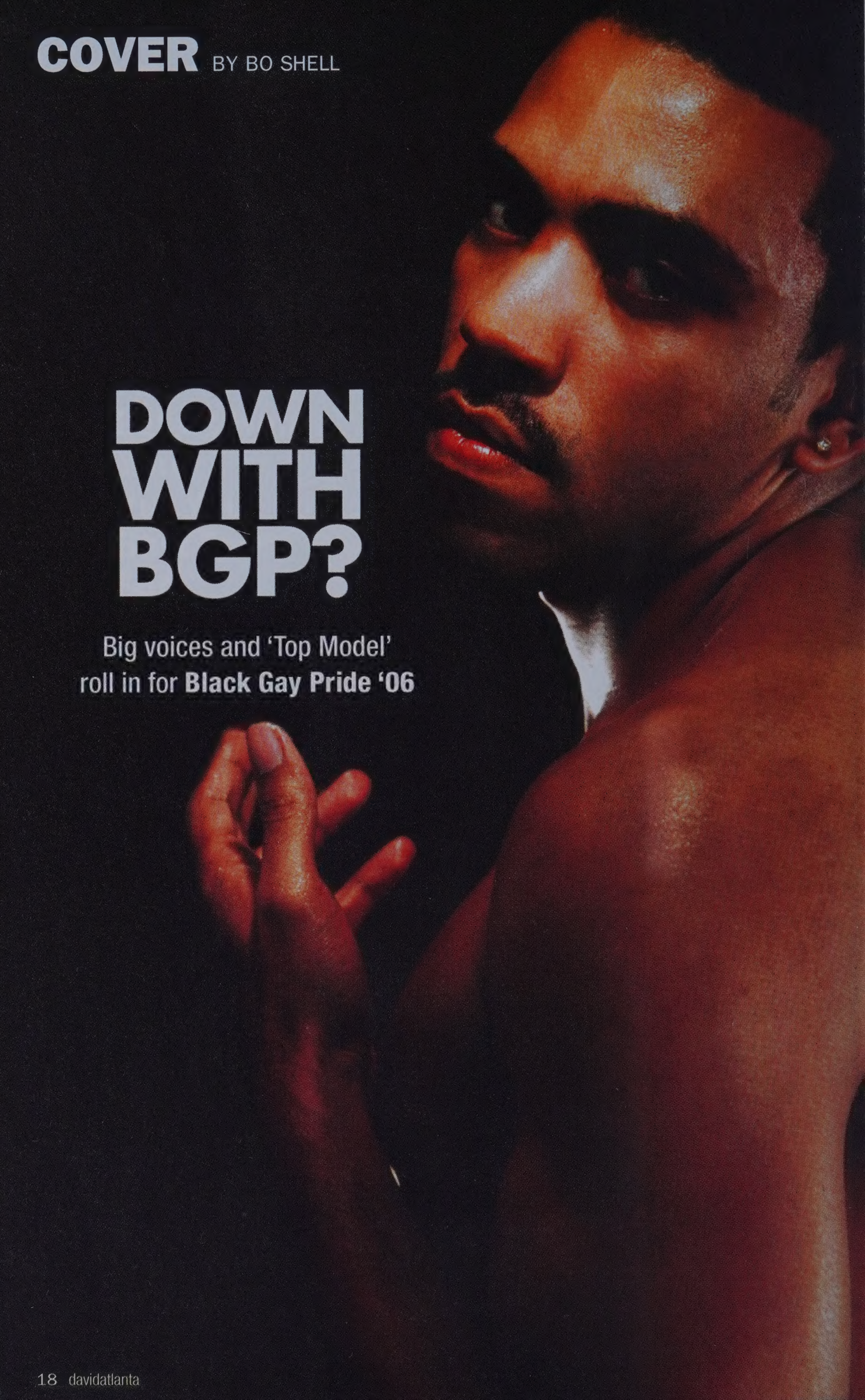


DOWN WITH BGP?

Big voices and 'Top Model' roll in for **Black Gay Pride '06**

FORGET CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR'S, THE holiday many black gay men and lesbians across the country look forward to most is Labor Day, and there's no holier place to celebrate Black Pride than the A-T-L, this year from Aug. 30 to Sept. 4.

Organizers at In The Life Atlanta expect around 40,000 international visitors for what they call the largest Black Gay Pride festival in the country, if not the world.

"We love to boast that we're the largest, which we are, and I think it's because we have a high population of blacks in the city, being from the south," says Zandra Conway, co-chair of ITLA. "People definitely want to go to a big city where you can be out and gay and see a lot of different types of Africans."

Conway says she's met people from England, France, South America and the Caribbean Islands who visit Atlanta during the six-day celebration, which includes educational workshops, cultural events, a political march — and club parties not to be missed.

Highlighting the list of nightlife must-do's are appearances by celebrity divas and voices from the not-too-distant-past, including Shanice Wilson performing at Fever on Labor Day.

"I've always had a gay following," Wilson says. "I just did a show in Baltimore, it was at a gay club and I almost cried because of the response. They knew every one of my songs... ."

Known best for her 1991 hit "I Love Your Smile," Wilson keeps a busy schedule promoting her latest album "Every Woman Dreams," released early this year, which shows a more mature side to the still fresh-faced singer.

"'I Love Your Smile' was so long ago, and I've been an adult for a while now," says the R&B diva. "My sound is a lot more mature now, because I'm older and I think being married and having children has changed my sound."

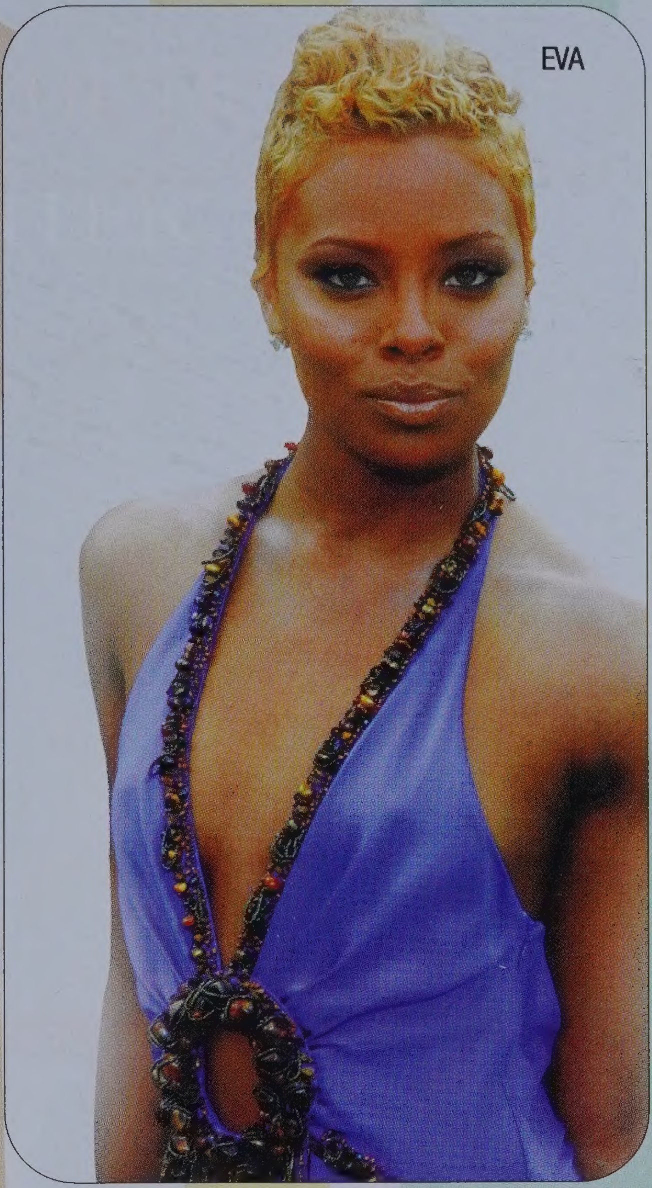
Wilson co-wrote 12 songs on the album, which includes her first two singles "Every Woman Dreams," "Take Care of U," and a cover of Minnie Ripperton's "Loving You." Even though it's more difficult as an independent artist, Wilson says being on her own is rewarding.

"I'm doing it how I want to do it," she says. "From the cover of the album to the music, I had my hands on everything. I'm proud and I'm glad the album came out like it did. I'm really happy."

SHANICE ISN'T THE ONLY DIVA HEADING TO town for the long weekend's festivities.

Frenchie Davis, "American Idol" alum, and "America's Next Top Model" winner Eva Pigford also hit the scene for Black Gay Pride.

Pigford, who won season three of Tyra Banks's modeling reality show, hosts an Invictus Entertainment/WassupnATL pool party on Saturday, and is slated to appear at Wilson's club performance Monday.



EVA

She joins forces with her high school friend Davis on Sunday, where the two perform a "Blonde Ambition Tour" cabaret.

"We grew up together," Davis says. "My best friend from school and the one who does her hair and make up is her cousin... We go way back.

Davis says Pigford was always beautiful, always outgoing and that she was shocked to find out that the girl she knew as "Little Eva" was the girl she'd been hearing about: "Eva the Diva."

"You can never predict where life is going to take someone," she says.

LIFE TOOK DAVIS ON A WILD RIDE AS SHE WAS plucked from obscurity and named a finalist in season two on "Idol." Several weeks in, Davis was disqualified after racy photos posted on the internet surfaced, an incident from which she's moved forward, later performing as a featured singer in Broadway's "Rent" and in a West Coast production of "Dreamgirls."

Davis, who was rained out of a performance during Atlanta Pride in June, says her relationship with gay audiences began when she

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 23**

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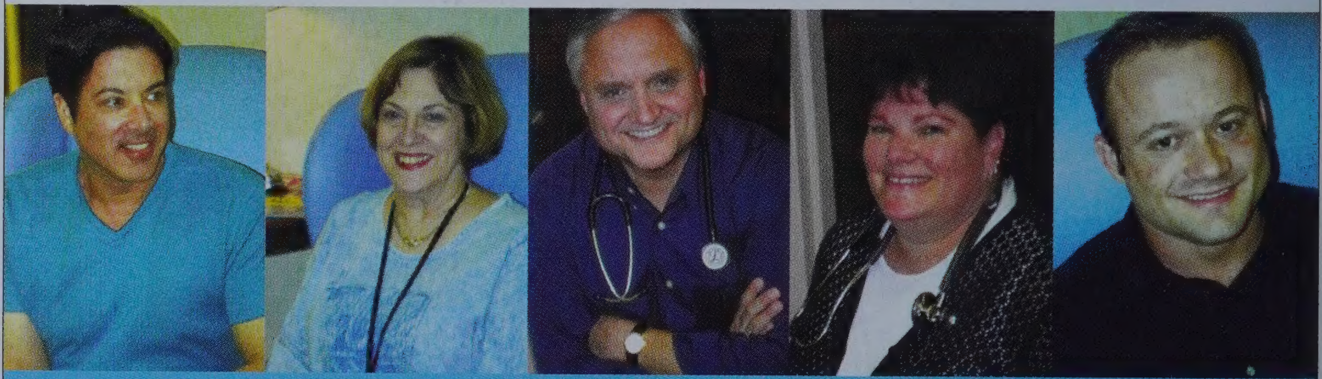

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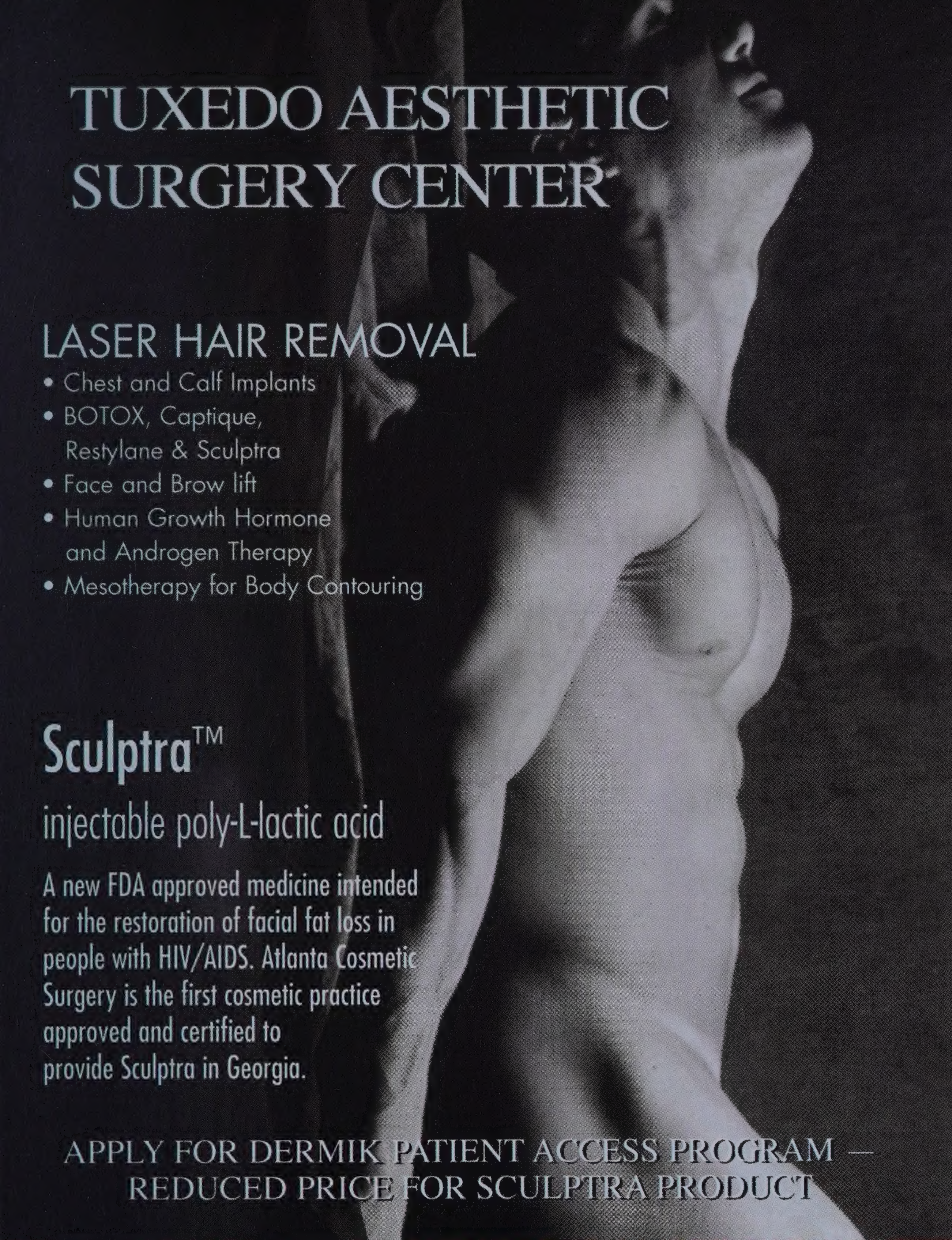

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Your guide to the hottest spots at **Black Gay Pride**

BLACK GAY PRIDE 2006
Aug. 30-Sept. 4
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square
188 14th St.
www.inthelifeatl.com

WEDNESDAY AUG. 30
Bad Boy Wednesday
10 p.m. to 3 a.m.
The Chaparral
2715 Buford Hwy.

THURSDAY AUG. 31
***VIP Reception**
8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Four Seasons Hotel
75 14th St.

'Before it Hits Home' (Play)
Whole World Theatre
1214 Spring St.
404-817-7529

Erotic Thursday
Club D&A at Phase One With
dancers and host Brent Star
10 p.m. to 4 a.m.
4933 Memorial Drive,
Stone Mountain

FRIDAY SEPT. 1
***Black Pride Marketplace**
4 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

Welcome Reception & Cocktail Party
Backyard Entertainment
6 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel Buckhead
3377 Peachtree Road
404-685-8101

***Opening Ceremony & Official Welcome**
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

Manhunt Friday
10 p.m. to 3 a.m.
Tower II
735 Ralph McGill Blvd.

***SpeakFire! Spoken Word Open Mic**
Midnight
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

SATURDAY SEPT. 2
***Black Pride Marketplace**
10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

***Community Luncheon**
11:30 a.m.
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Low-cost Hepatitis A & B vaccinations
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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***See Us in the Life Film Festival**
1 pm. To 7 p.m.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

Pool Party w/'America's Top Model' Eva Pigford
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Twelve Hotel
361 17th St.
www.invictusentertainment.com

Michael Christopher
8 p.m.
Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Ave.
404-607-0082
www.outwritebooks.com

***Poetry Slam Contest**
8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

***YouthPride Back to School Dance**
8 p.m. to 11:45 p.m.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

***Peace Out South Homo Homo Hip Hop Festival**
9 p.m.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

Set it Out Saturday
10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
Club D&A at Phase One
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House Party
12 a.m. to 6 a.m.
Marks Place
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SUNDAY SEPT. 3
***Jazz Brunch**
Noon to 2 p.m.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

***Black Pride Marketplace**
Noon to 6 p.m.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

***2006 Unity Picnic**
Noon to 6 p.m.
Piedmont Park Pavillion

***See Us in the Life Film Festival**
2 pm. To 6 p.m.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square
***Together In Love: Family Feud Game show with host Spirit**
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

End of Summer Cookout
Backyard Entertainment
5 p.m. to 2 a.m.
D'Jango
495 Peachtree St. 404-685-8101

Blonde Ambition Tour w/Eva Pigford and Frenchie Davis
6 p.m. to 3 a.m.
Red Chair
550-C Amsterdam Ave.
404-870-0532
www.invictusentertainment.com

***Living in Your Pride Fashion Show**
8 p.m. to 10 pm.
Sheraton Midtown Colony Square

Rasheeda in concert
10 p.m.
The Chaparral

MONDAY SEPT. 4
***Stand Up and Represent Black Pride March**
Meet at 10:30 a.m.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Center
www.inthelifeatl.com

Fire & Ice
With Shanice and Eva Pigford
10 p.m. to 3 a.m.
Fever
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Stars of the Century
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FRENCHIE
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CONTINUED FROM **PAGE 19**

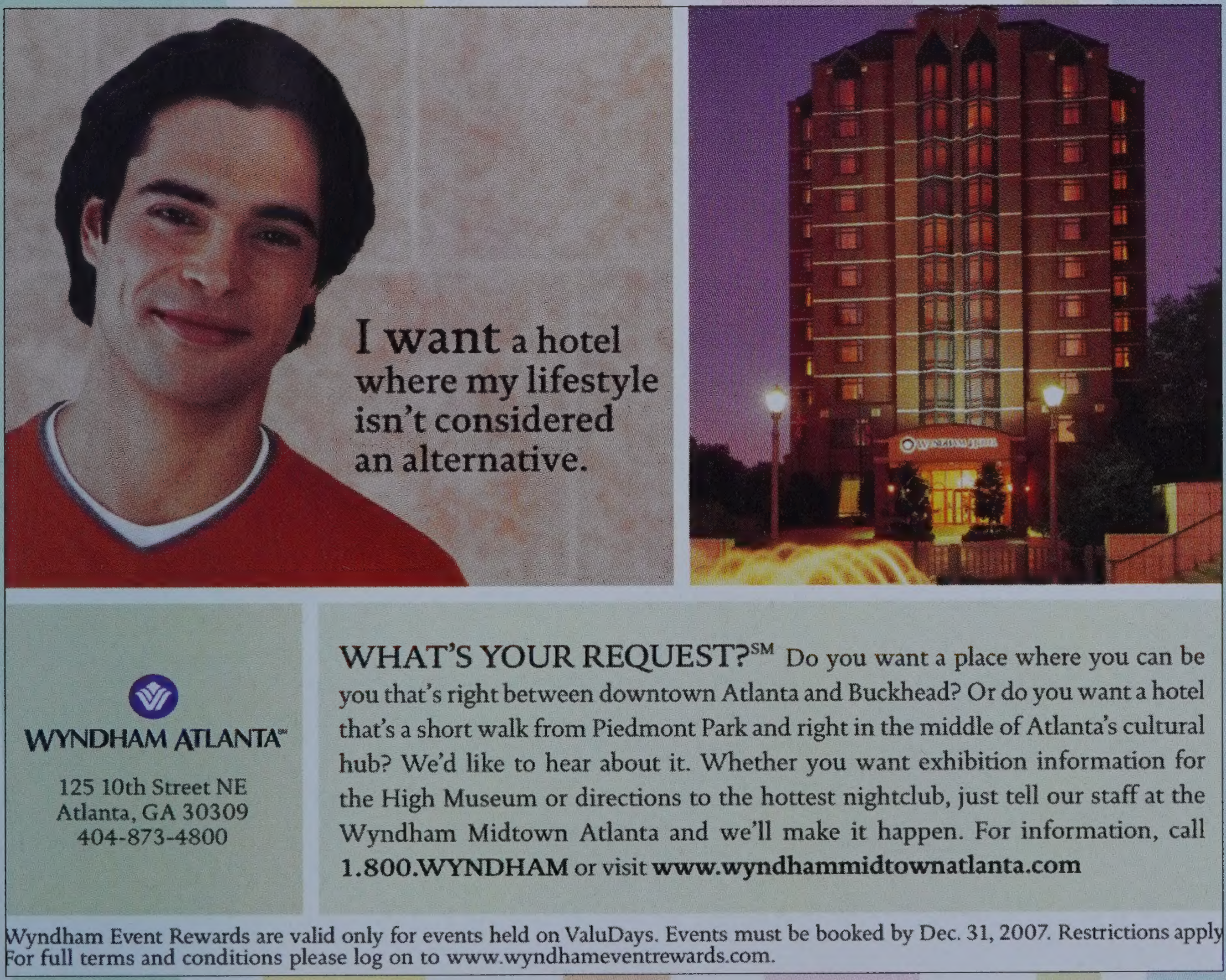
was a struggling singer at Howard University.

"Some of my first fans are members of the gay community," she says. "I have a lot of loyalty to them, and they've always been supportive of my career."

Also slated to perform during the weekend is Rasheeda, an-up-and-coming southern female rapper who takes to the Chaparral stage Sunday night.

BLACK GAY PRIDE SEES A SLEW OF OTHER club events and house parties, some featuring drink specials and exotic dancers. And for those interested in a more cultured experience, ITLA's workshops offer a daytime getaway for party goers looking to share an empowering sense of community.

"When you remove sexuality as a factor, it's just how the African-American community has had to survive over the years," says ITLA co-chair Michael Slaughter. "That family-based mentality is really strong for us and really helps us as a community to organize and respond to things that are important."



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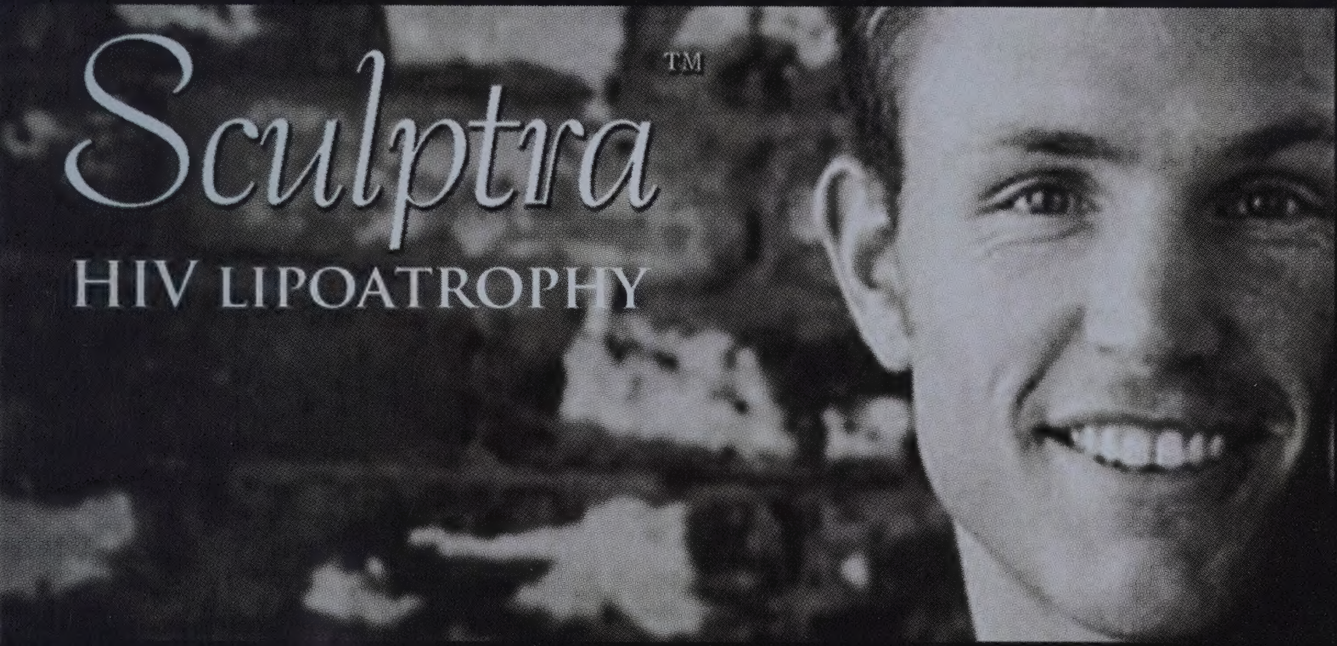

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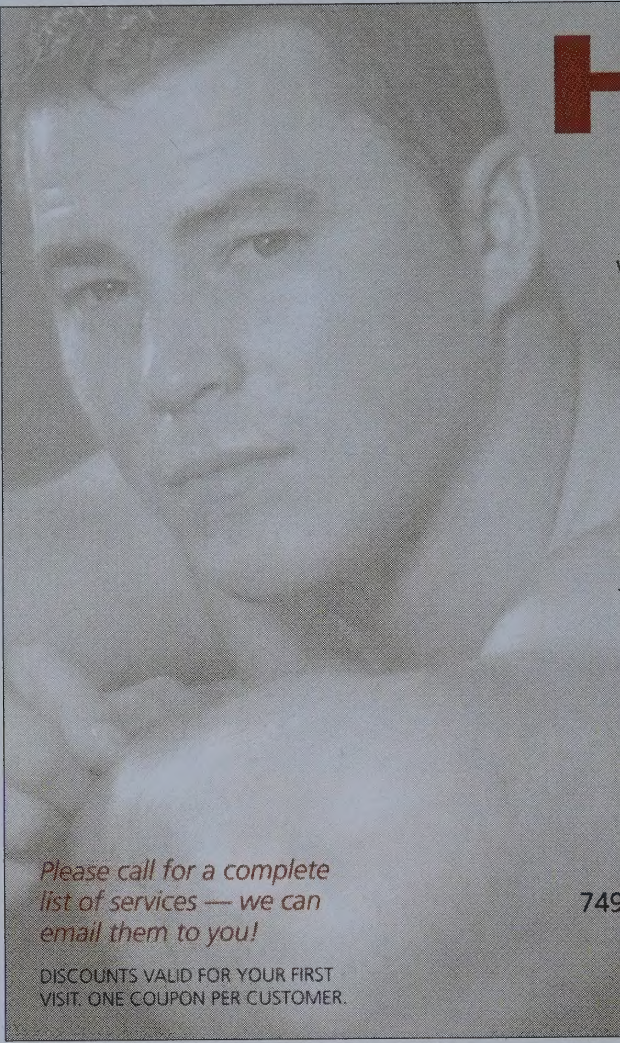

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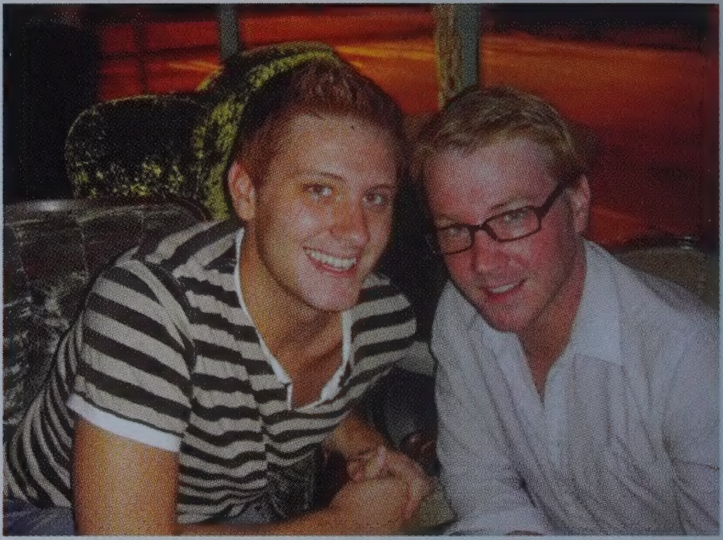

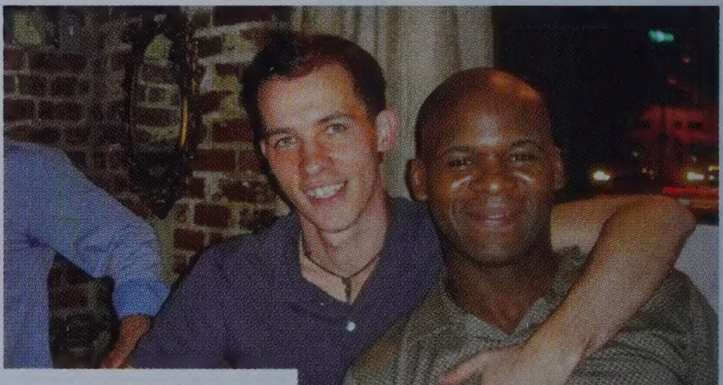

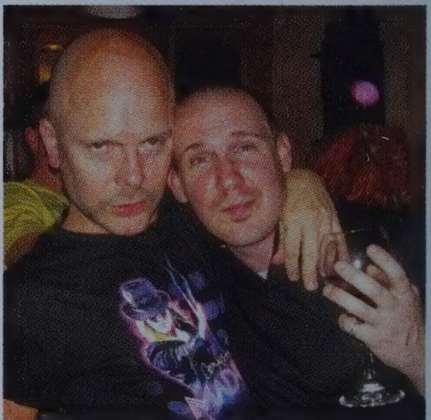

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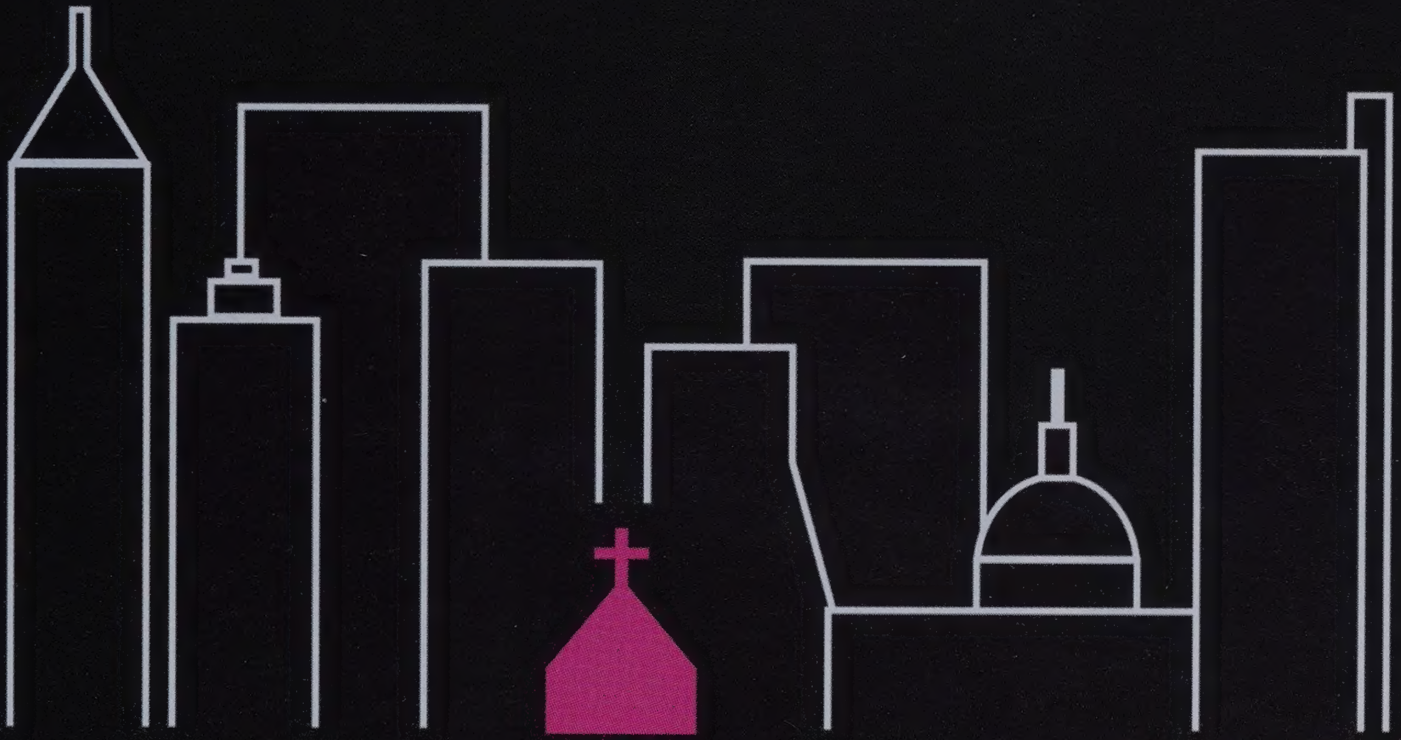

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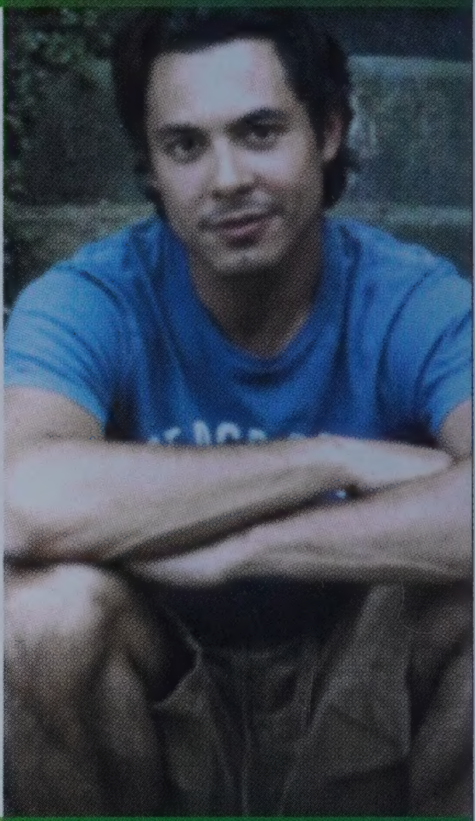

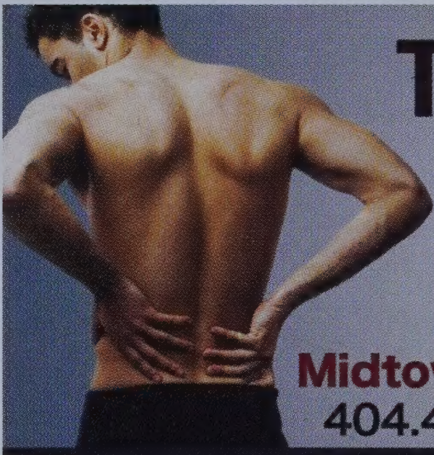

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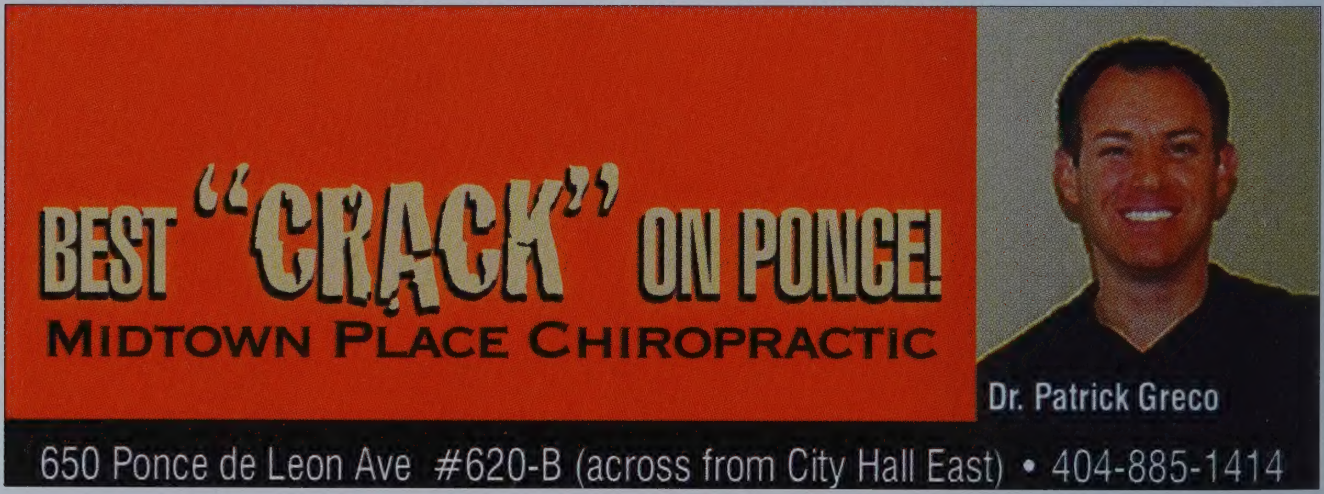
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DATEBOOK 09.01 — 09.07

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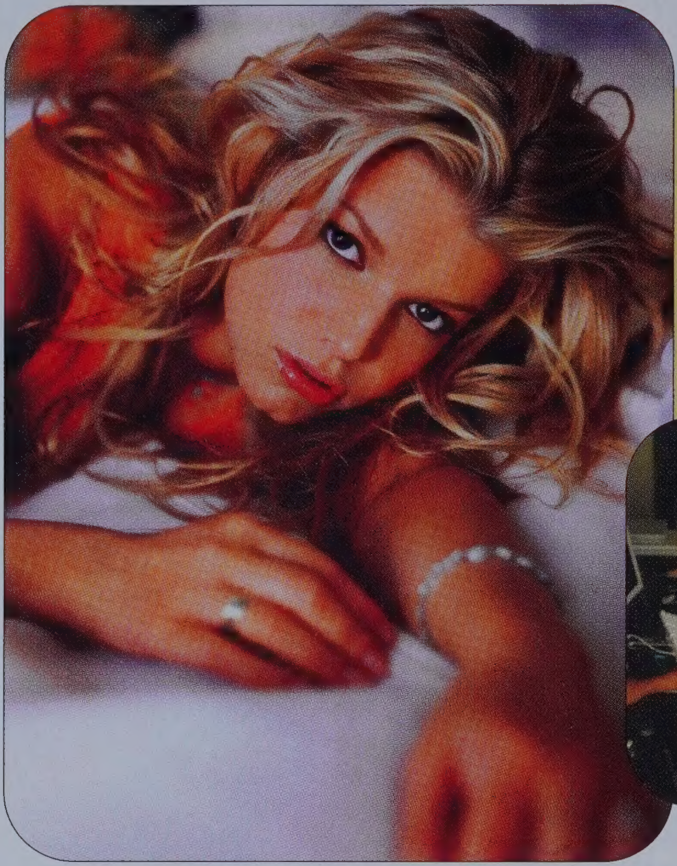

DJ DELUGE

Ovah! brings international **DJ Tony Moran** (pictured) to town for a **Jessica Simpson** CD release party. *Saturday, Sept. 2 at Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Road. 404-844-8800, www.jungleclub.net*

That same night, touring favorite **Roland Belmares** returns for his Atlanta fans. *Saturday, Sept. 2 at WETbar, 960 Spring St. 404-745-9494, www.wetbaratl.com*

FEEL THE LOVE

Six days, tens of thousands of people and countless events make up this year's **Black Gay Pride**, with everything from erotic poetry, educational workshops, artistic performances and club appearances by America's Next Top Model winner **Eva Pigford. (See story on page 18and full calendar of events on page 22)**. *Aug. 30 to Sept. 4, www.inthelifeatl.com*

'FLAMING' FLASHBACK

Jack Smith's 1960s avant-garde film **'Flaming Creatures,'** once banned for its use of drag queens, nudity and gay content, screens with a special presentation by the film's soundtrack creator, Tony Conrad. *Friday, Sept. 1, 8 p.m. at Eyedrum, 290 MLK Jr. Drive, Suite 8 404-522-0655, www.eyedrum.org*

SYNCOPATED SECRETS

Reciprocity Theatre presents **'Before it Hits Home,'** the tale of an HIV-positive jazz musician who's tangled in a web of gay and straight relationships and secrets. *Runs through Sept. 17 at Whole World Theatre, 1214 Spring St. 404-817-7529*

HOT DATES

09.01 **POETRY READING:** Local poet Collin Kelley hosts a slew of fellow writers from the book 'Outside the Green Zone: Poets Respond to the GLBT Cleansing of Iraq.' *7 p.m. at the Portfolio Center, 125 Bennett St. 404-351-5055, www.collinkelley.com*

FILM FATALE: 'Quinceanera,' features **Jesse Garcia** as a gay outcast who learns to be a man after his family abandons him. *Midtown Arts Cinema, 931 Monroe Drive. 678-495-1424, www.landmarktheatres.com*

INDIGO GIRLS: Amy and Emily together again for a performance to benefit the Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault. *8 p.m. at Eddies Attic, 515-B McDonough St. 404-377-4976, www.eddiesattic.com*

09.02 **AUTHOR APPEARANCE:** Gay writer **Michael Christopher** discusses and signs 'From Top to Bottom,' about the sexual dynamics and the power of masculinity among black gay men. *8 p.m. at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Ave. 404-607-0082, www.outwritebooks.com*

09.07 **THEATRE PREMIERE:** The Georgia Ensemble Theatre presents the southern classic 'Steel Magnolias.' *Runs through Sept. 24 at the Georgia Ensemble Theatre, 950 Forrest St., Roswell. 770-641-1260, www.get.org*

NIGHTLIFECALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

THU 08.31

AMSTERDAM. All-day Smirnoff martini specials.

BLAKE'S. Crazy Sexy Cool with Shawnna Brooks, Genre, Regina Ryan and weekly guests. 11 p.m.

BURKHART'S. Kitty LeClaw's 'Meow Mix,' midnight.

EAGLE. "Blackout Thursday," 10 p.m.

FELIX'S. Karaoke with Johnny P. & Brett

FRIENDS ON PONCE. Tini Thursdays, martini specials

HALO. 'Boys Night Out' resident DJ Brandon Sutton. Check the DJ booth for occasional CD giveaways.

HERETIC. Rapture with DJ Rick Walsh 10 p.m., no cover.

HOEDOWNS. Free kickin' line dance lesson, 8 p.m..

JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia with Jim and Daniel, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

LE BUZZ. "Bad Boyz, Bad Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.

MARY'S. Rotating weekly theme nights.

MISS Q'S. AID Atlanta hosts POOL, a casual discussion group that meets the first three Thursdays of every month, 7:30 p.m.

MODEL T. Karaoke with Johnny P.

OSCARS. Country Thursdays Cowboys 'N Margaritas.

RED CHAIR. Soulvation with DJ Quasi Mandisco

STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.

SWINGING RICHARDS. 2 for 1 at door & VIP rooms

TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.

WETBAR. College Night, hottest student bodies and Men of WETbar calendar search, every second and third Thursday, 11 p.m.

WOOFS. Daily Food Specials

FRI 09.01

AMSTERDAM. DJ Van Cronkhite spins, dance floor open at 9 p.m.

BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba and Jeffery, 7:30 p.m., DJ Rob Reum afterwards.

BURKHART'S. The Friday Show with Kitty LeClaw and Mary Edith Pitts,11:30.

CHAPARRAL. Latin Night with DJ Carlos, 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.

FELIX'S. Drink specials and Alternating Stage Door Divas and Tuckerettes.

FRIENDS ON PONCE. Frisky Friday's-Music and Friends

HERETIC. DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m.

JUNGLE. DV8 Goth Night, 10:30 p.m.

THE LION'S DEN. "Hot Prey Friday's." Hip-Hop and R&B. 10 p.m.

LE BUZZ. Nicole Paige Brooks and Girlzz of LeBuzz talent competition, 11 p.m.

MARY'S. "Boys' Room" with Stewart, 9 p.m.

MODEL T. Divas of Delusion.

OSCARS. Afternoon showtunes. "Martinis, Men & Music Videos," 9 p.m.

RED CHAIR. No cover with VJ Rick Farmer

STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.

TWINKLEDOME. Dress-up and dance to rock, glam, punk and new wave on the third Friday of every month. 9 p.m., $5 cover at Six, 3167 Roswell Road, Atlanta, 404-869-0522, www.twinkledome.com

SWINGING RICHARDS. "2-4-1 T-Shirt Review."

WETbar. Charlie Brown's Cabaret, 11 p.m., $5

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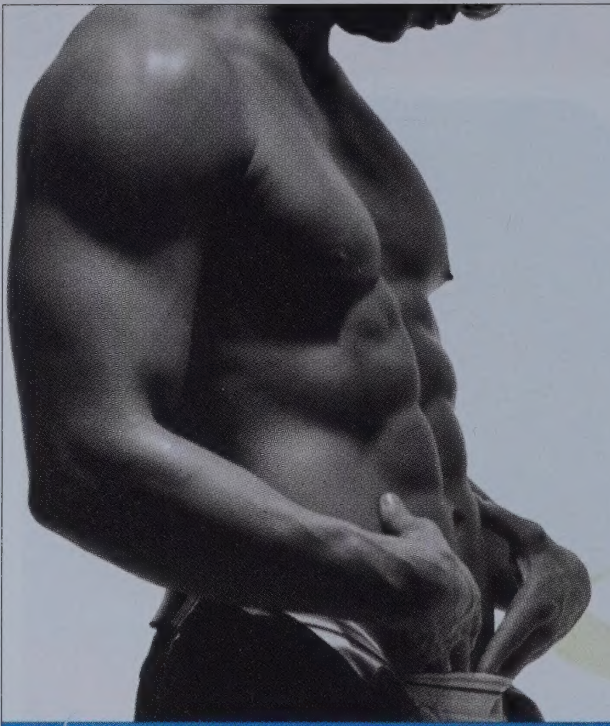

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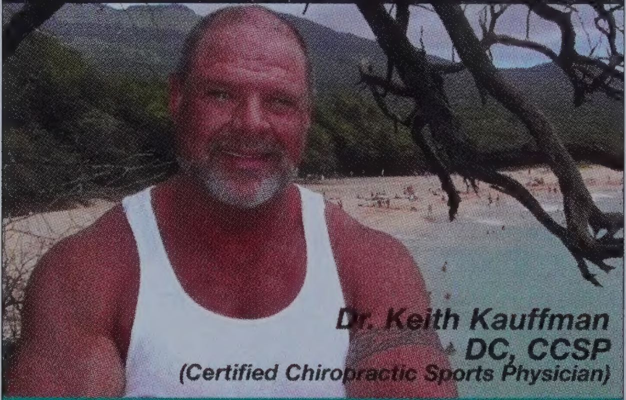

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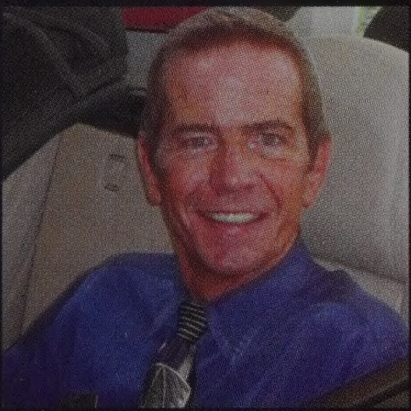

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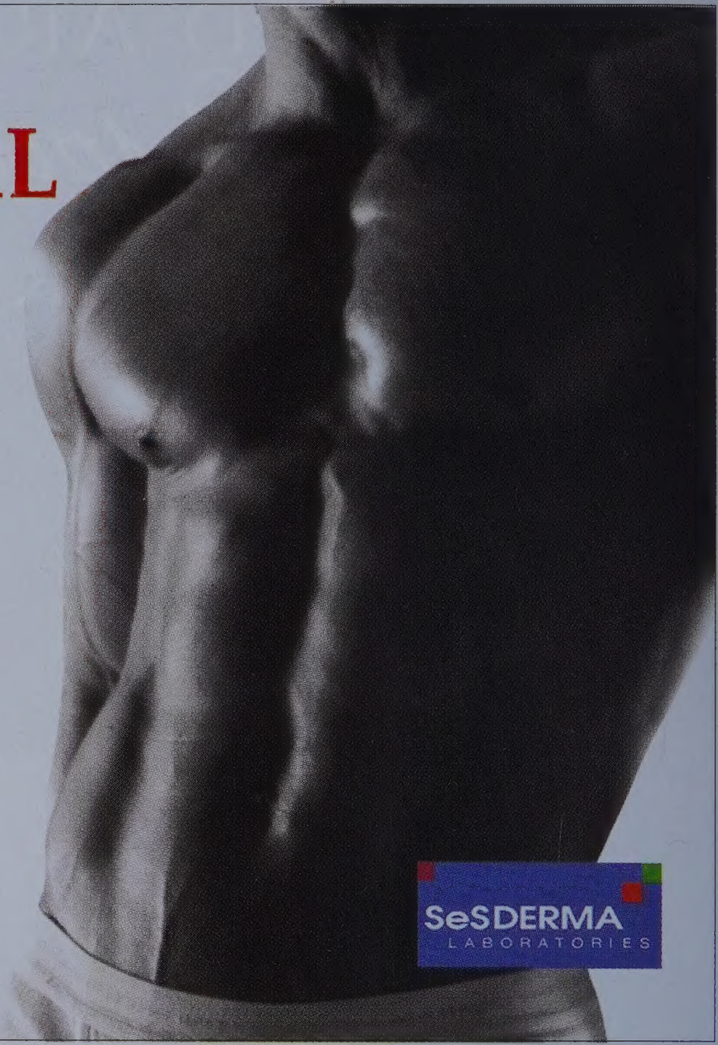

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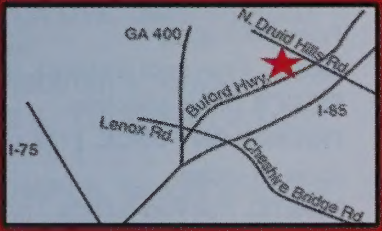

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SAT 09.02

AMSTERDAM. Dance floor open, 9 p.m.

ATLANTA LIVE. Hip hop night with Traxx.

BLAKES. Jealouse's Daring Divas with Jealouse, Monica Layne, Destin Brooks, Diamond Monroe, Myah Monroe and weekly special guests, 11 p.m.

BURKHART'S. 'Saturday Showcase' with Mary Edith Pitts and Kitty LeClaw, 11:30 p.m.

FRIENDS ON PONCE. Summer Fling drink specials.

FELIX'S Drink specials

HERETIC. DJ Brian Beck at 9 p.m.

HOEDOWNS Free Progressive Two Step lessons, 8 p.m.

JUNGLE. Come Out Dancing, 7:30, Weekly special guest DJs and performers, 10 p.m.

LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show hosted by Tequila Mockingbird, 11 p.m.

MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.

MODEL T. The MODEL Tzz Girls.

OSCARS. High energy videos w/VJ Das Wright, 9 p.m.

RED CHAIR. "Sexy Saturdays" girls night.

SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.

TRIPPS. 1st and 3rd Saturdays: Linda Michaels' "Showcase Showdown," 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m

WETBAR. Weekly Submerge party with guest DJ, $10 Cover

SUN 09.03

AMSTERDAM. T-Dance, 6 p.m. with DJ Dave Meyers

BLAKE'S. "Big Time!" drag revue with Shabazz, Jealousé, Myah Monroe, and guests.

BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.

BURKHART'S. Armorettes show, 9 p.m., no cover.

CENTRAL PARK CLUB AND BISTRO. Male Exotic Dancers at Midnight K-Rock Productions Presents 'Freaks of the Industry' with hosts Busta Love and DJ Gee every first and third Sunday.

CHAPARRAL. Hip Hop Night with Maxine Blue, DJ Smash and The Dreams, 10 p.m.

CLUB EUROPE. The Lion's Den Presents "Erotic Sunday's." Hip-Hp and R&B. 8 p.m. – 3 a.m.

FELIX'S Drink specials

FRIENDS ON PONCE. 'Family Reunion BBQ,' 3 p.m.

THE HOUSE. SweetPillow Productions 'Revival' with DJ Russ C, 8 p.m. www.sweetpillow.com

MISS Q'S. Free Pool.

RED CHAIR. Brunch and afternoon delight with disco hits and anthems

STAGE DOOR. T-dance 3-6 p.m., 1st and 3rd Sun.: The Tuckerettes, 2nd and 4th: The Stage Door Divas.

MON 09.04

AMSTERDAM. Industry Night, 9 p.m.

BLAKE'S. Drag on the Edge with Princess Charles. 11 p.m.

BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Tyler, midnight.

EAGLE. Free pool and rock music.

FELIX'S Drink specials

FRIENDS ON PONCE. Free pool, noon to close.

HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.

JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Jim & Baton Bob, 8-10 p.m.

JUNGLE. Salsa dance class, $5, 7-

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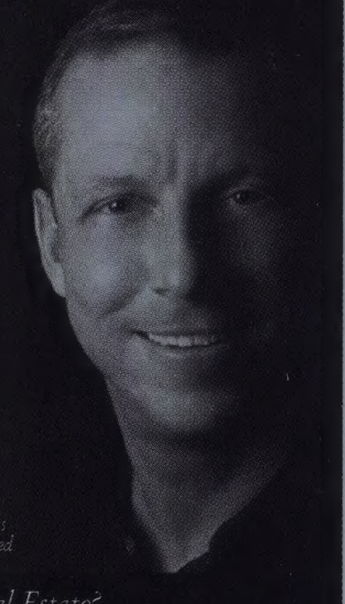

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10 p.m. "Stars of the Century" w/Niesha Dupree, 11 p.m. $7 cover.

LeBUZZ. "Lady LeBuzz" drag kings and drag queens show hosted by Heather Daniels, 10 p.m.

MARY'S. "Jump Start" your weekend early with guest DJ's and video game showdowns.

MISS Q'S. Free Pool.

NICKIEMOTO'S. "Dragamaki" w/Bubba D. Licious, 8:45 p.m.

OSCARS. Service Industry Night with VJ Chris Allen, 9 p.m.

WOOFS. Texas Hold-Em. No entry fee, prizes and more.

TUE 09.05

AMSTERDAM. Showtunes, 9 p.m.

ATLANTA LIVE. Traxx's 'Thugged Out Tuesdays'

BJ'S ROOSTER'S. Karaoke, 10 p.m.

BLAKE'S. "Family" Feud w/Mary Edith Pitts, 11 p.m.

BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, midnight.

EAGLE. Free pool, rock music.Open 8 p.m.

FELIX'S Bingo Trivia with B.T.J. Patrick and drink specials

FRIENDS ON PONCE. Tini Tuesdays, martini specials

HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.

HOEDOWN'S. Free beginner Two Step, 8 p.m.

JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Tom and company, 8 – 10 p.m.

LE BUZZ. Karaoke with Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.

MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.

MISS Q'S. Pool League

MODEL T. "069 Bingo" with Ken and Draft beer specials.

OSCAR'S. Home of "Atlanta's Original Showtunes Tuesdays," 9 p.m.

STAGE DOOR. Texas Hold 'Em, 7:30 p.m.

SWINGING RICHARDS. $5 Cover 8pm.

WOOFS Daily Food Specials.

WED 09.06

AMSTERDAM. All-day Long Island Tea specials.

BLAKE'S. "Brain Freeze" trivia w/Ruby Redd, 11 p.m.

BURKHART'S. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.

CHAPARRAL. Bad Boys with host Maxine Blue.

FELIX'S. Virtually Famous Karaoke with K.J. Patrick

FRIENDS ON PONCE. Hump Day Party, music and fun.

GILBERT'S CAFE. Karaoke, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. 219 10th St.

HERETIC. Boys Night Out Dress Code Party with DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m., no cover

HOEDOWNS. Free Dance Lessons, 8 p.m.

JUNGLE. Southern line dancing, 7-9 p.m. and Guest performers, DJs and bartenders for the weekly Backdoor Party, 10 p.m.

LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show, 11 p.m.

MARY'S. Video request night.

MISS Q'S. Pool League

OSCARS. Comedy night with VJ Chris Allen, 9 p.m.

RED CHAIR. Dinner and a movie with Brent Star Karaoke

STAGE DOOR. Trivia, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.

SWINGING RICHARDS. $5 - 8pm.

WETbar. Ladies' Night Out.

WOOFS Trivia Night, 8 p.m.

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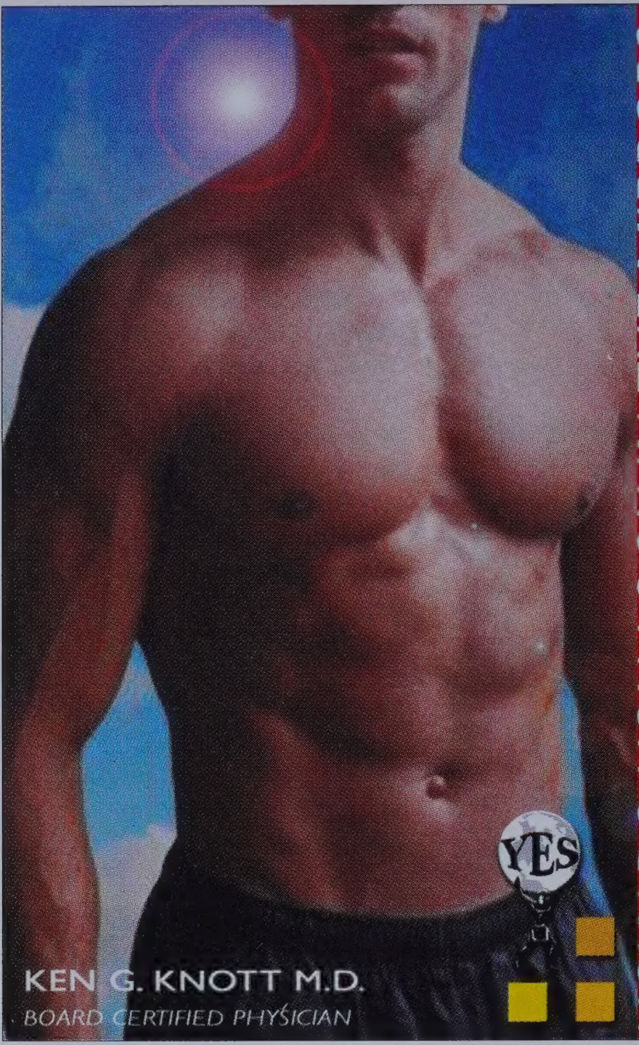

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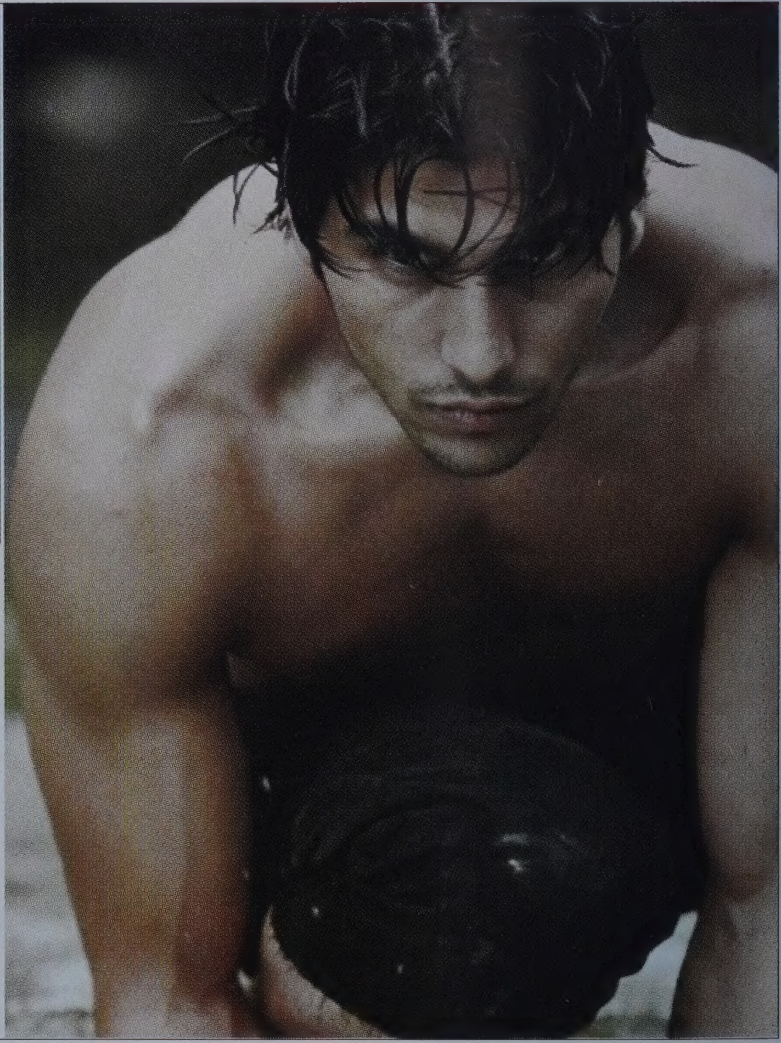

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The Friday Night Show

11:30

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The Saturday Showcase

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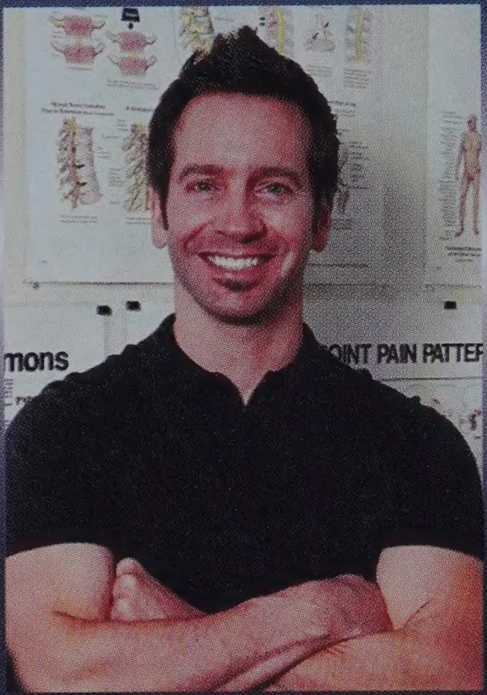
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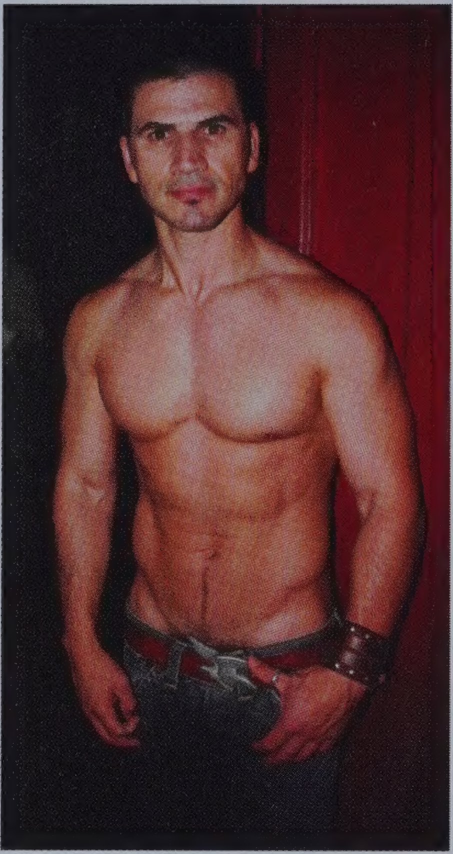

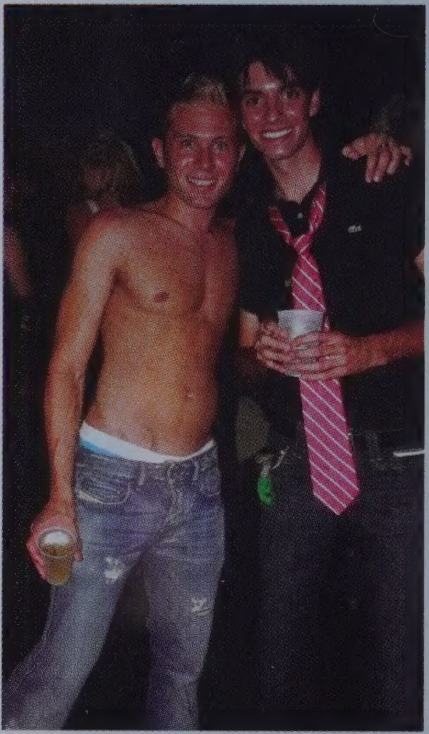

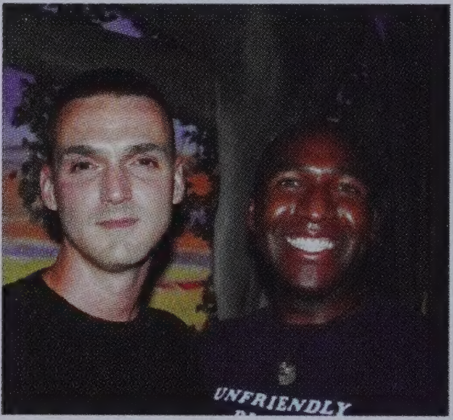
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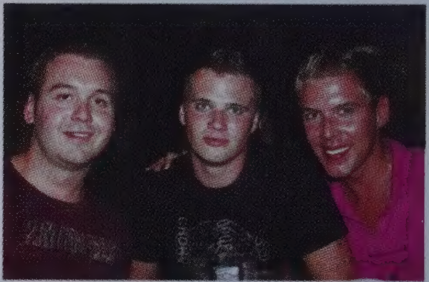

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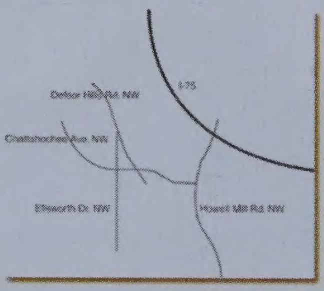
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Having a F-A-B-U-L-O-U-S time with JT and in the theaters

THIS WEEK'S ROUNDS WERE DECIDEDLY A little more cultured than usual, minus the moment we decided to slut ourselves out for a particularly bland celebrity. But that comes after we started things off with Galaxy Theatre's production of **"Dreamgirls."**

This Broadway hit went well in the small playhouse, carried by strong lead vocalists but not much else. Makes us salivate for the movie version opening in December.

We're not sure if it was the uncomfortable folding chairs or the fabulous performance that raised the crowd to it's feet for a minutes-long standing ovation, but mad props go to **Summer Bergeron**, who sweated her way through a convincing version of Jennifer Holliday's classic "And I Am Telling You..."

Nik Alexzander, who played C.C. White, Effie's brother and songwriter, was either getting into his role or making eyes at us, but either way, he brought the show home with his unassuming good looks and amazing voice.

THE GAYS TOOK OVER **THE ROYAL** SATURDAY for a fashion extravaganza led by Pecan Pie Couture designer **Clint Zeagler** and his business partner **Judd**.

Zeagler's design brings a kind of high-fashion casual to sports wear, featuring T-shirts with slogans like "Love is the Main Ingredient."

Unfortunately, there wasn't a lot of action going down besides beautiful girls with big model hair lounging around smoking cigarettes and being fabulous.

The tables turned a little when we ran into the AJC's "Peach Buzz" gossip **Rich Eldridge** doing his dirty work, chatting it up with some gays here and there. Other than that, the coast was clear, so we jetted home to prepare for our little lapse in judgment.

YOU KNOW, 8 A.M. COMES EARLY WHEN you've been out partying all night, but we had to swing by the **Alpharetta Best Buy** where it was announced that super hot straight boy **Justin Timberlake** was to host a secret in-store listening party promoting his upcoming "FutureSex/LoveSounds" disc.

The Making the Rounds Boys, usually a little too cool for such fanfare, waited in line for hours for a chance to kick it with Timberlake, but he allowed none of that. Photos, autographs, "personal contact" and sharing a four-foot radius of oxygen/air space were not permitted.

And we thought **Mariah Carey** was a diva.

We didn't even get a free CD, but because we were among the first 200 in line, thankfully, our hard work paid off and we got tickets to his show at the **Tabernacle** later that night.

"We hope you like 'em. If not, fuck you," Timberlake said, Coors Light in hand joking about his newest material with a packed audience, all in an effort to show just how much he's, um, matured. Eat your heart out, Lance Bass.

We kept our eye out for Justin's frequent flame **Cameron Diaz**, but the "Charlie's Angels" ass-kicker was a no-show. We did, however, catch a glimpse at rap mogul **Dallas Austin** and singer **Ciara**, who reportedly showed up in VIP to see the former *N-Sync member strut his stuff. He did a surprising encore of the Eurythmics' "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)" and his own "Sexy/Back."

BY FAR THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK, BELIEVE it or not, was our trek to a preview of the Alliance Theatre's **"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."** It was awesome, and hands-down one of the best productions we've seen in Atlanta.

It's incredibly timely, keenly localized and an absolute riot. Audiences are in for a wild ride as a few of their own are selected for stage appearances, making each show a different treat.

A mix between rehearsed theater, audience participation and skilled improv make this show a must-see.

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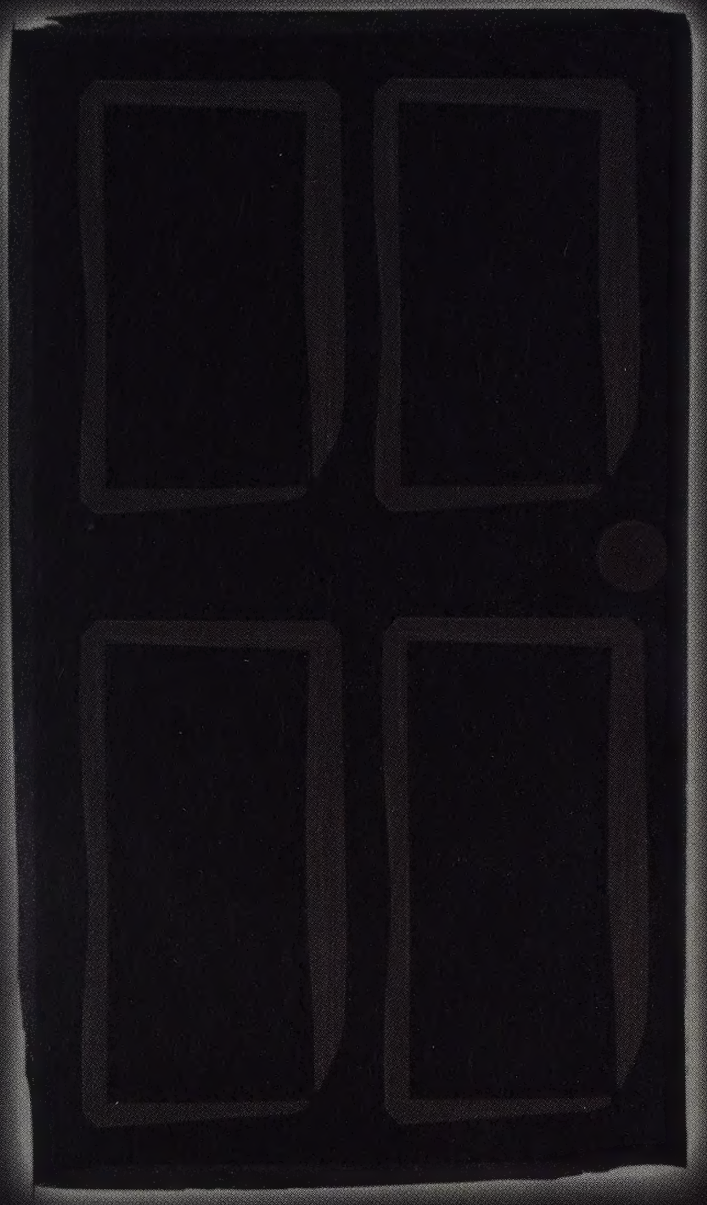

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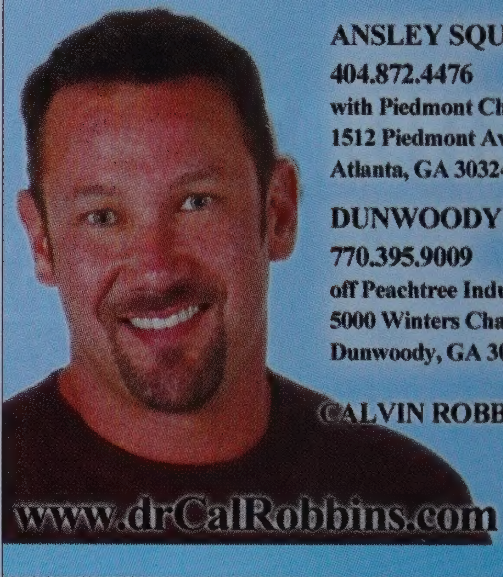

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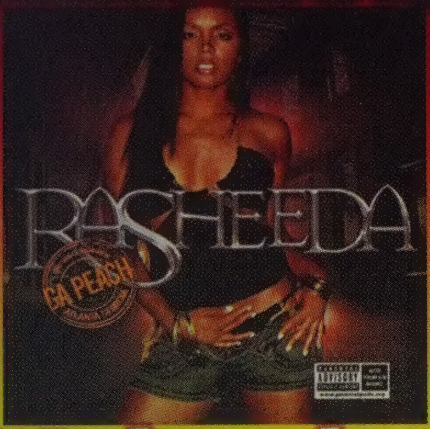
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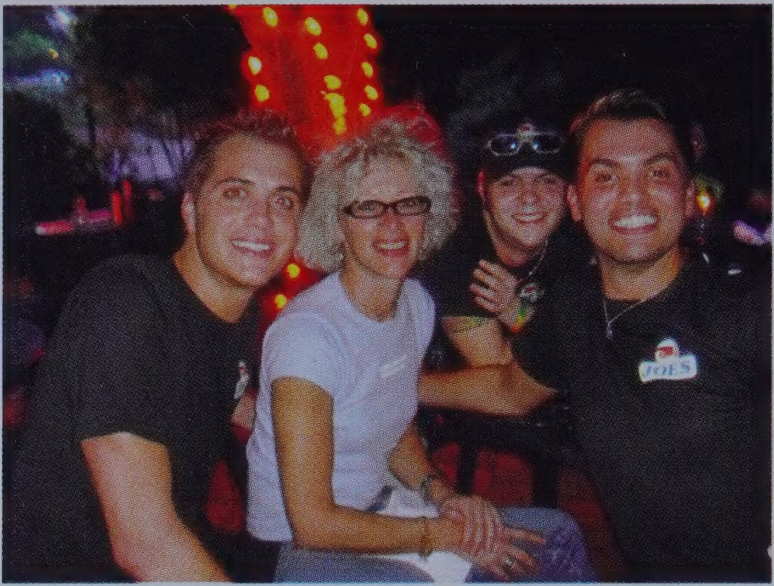

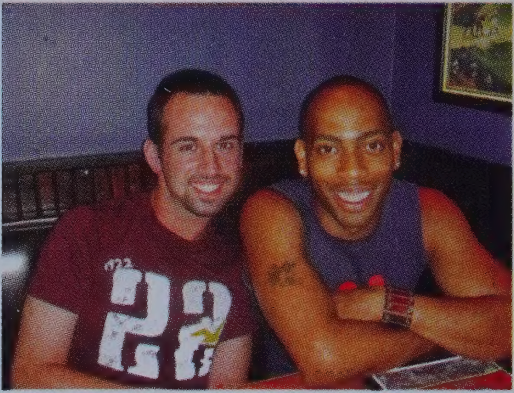

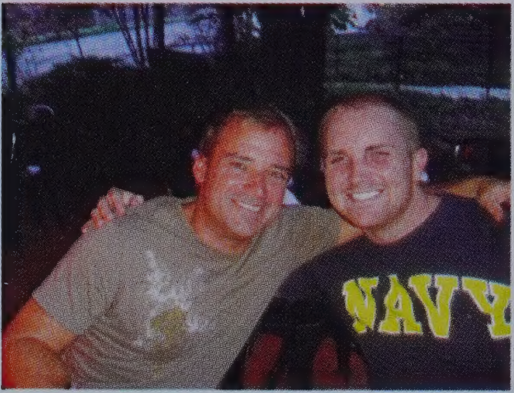

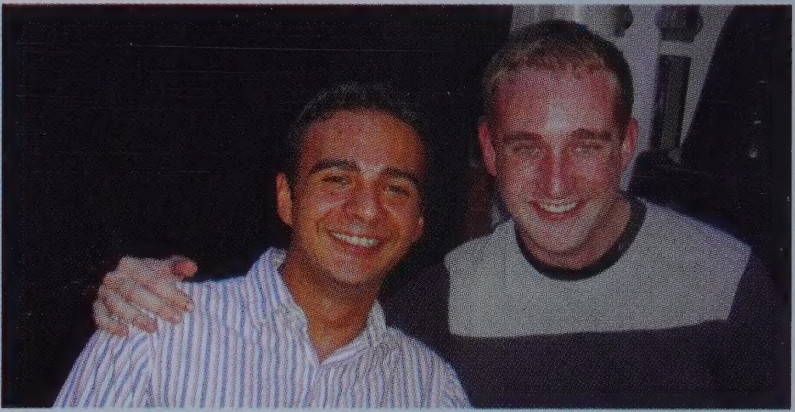

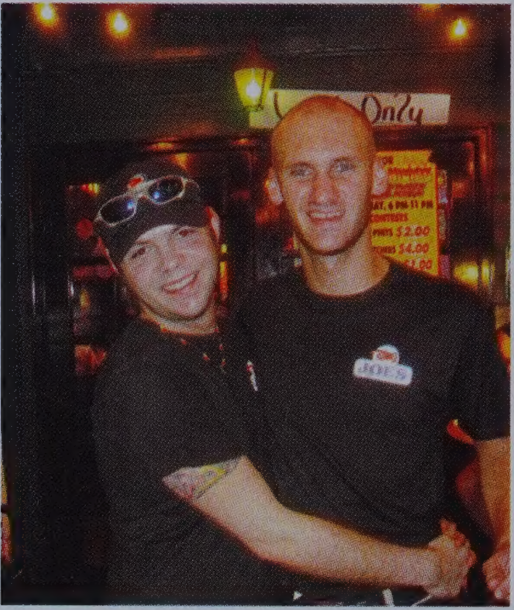

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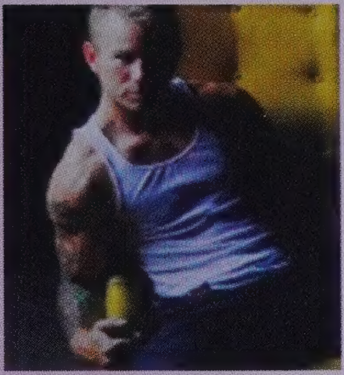

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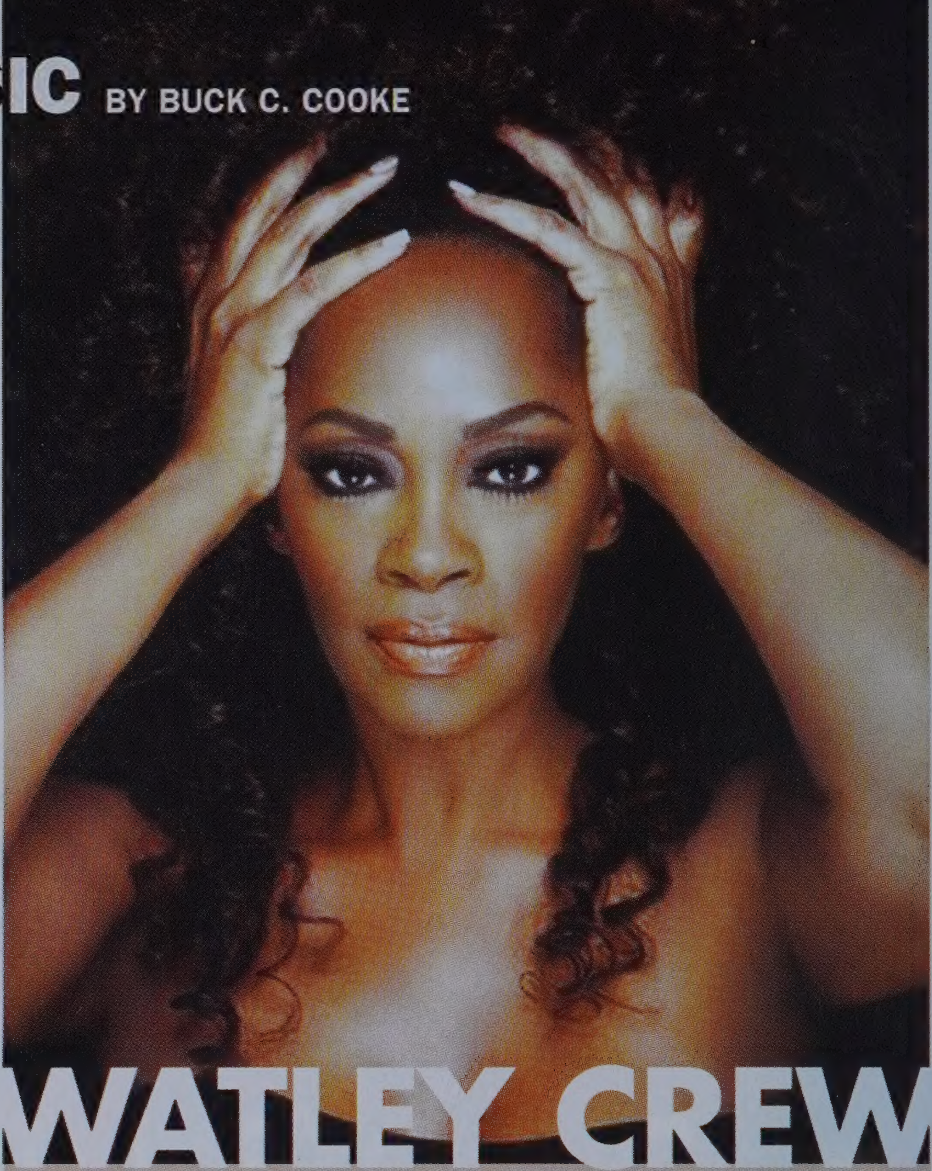


WATLEY CREW

‘80s icon covers **hodgepodge of musical greats** on new CD

CONTINUING HER SMOOTH DANCE GROOVE, Jody Watley releases “The Makeover,” a unique album of ambient dance hits inspired by songs from the ‘70s and ‘80s, with a few new gems thrown in for good measure.

Watley is eclectic in her selection of cover songs, with material from Madonna, Bob Marley, the Carpenters, Diana Ross and Chic, among others.

The debut single is a radically reworked version of Madonna’s “Borderline.” Watley transforms it into a loving ballad. Watley’s longing is palpable on the track.

The cover of Marley’s “Waiting in Vain” is ideal for a jazz club, dinner party, or after-hours set thanks to the smooth production and Watley’s dreamy delivery. The jazzy, smooth vibe continues on Ross’ “Love Hangover” with a sultry saxophone.

“I Want Your Love” is one of the more faithful adaptations on the album. Chic’s original version shines through, complete with snappy guitar hook.

PULLING OUT ALL THE SEXUAL STOPS, WATLEY delivers a medley of hits by the Carpenters that smolders with sensuality. “Close To *You/Superstar/We’ve Only Just Begun” is made for hitting the sheets.*

Watley re-imagines some of her past work as well. “Don’t You Want Me,” one of her earliest solo hits, is presented as slick electronica on King Britt’s Scuba Mix. The Mark de Clive-Lowe Makeover Mix of “Midnight Lounge” is filled with strings and piano to make you groove as you wind down from your night on the town.

“Friendz” is an updated version of “Friends,” recorded for the 1989 album “Larger Than Life,” one of the first tracks to combine a top vocalist with rap. (I guess this means we can blame Watley for today’s ubiquitous guest rapper.) Eric B. and Rakim did the rapping on the original, and Voshaun Gotti rocks the mic this time around.

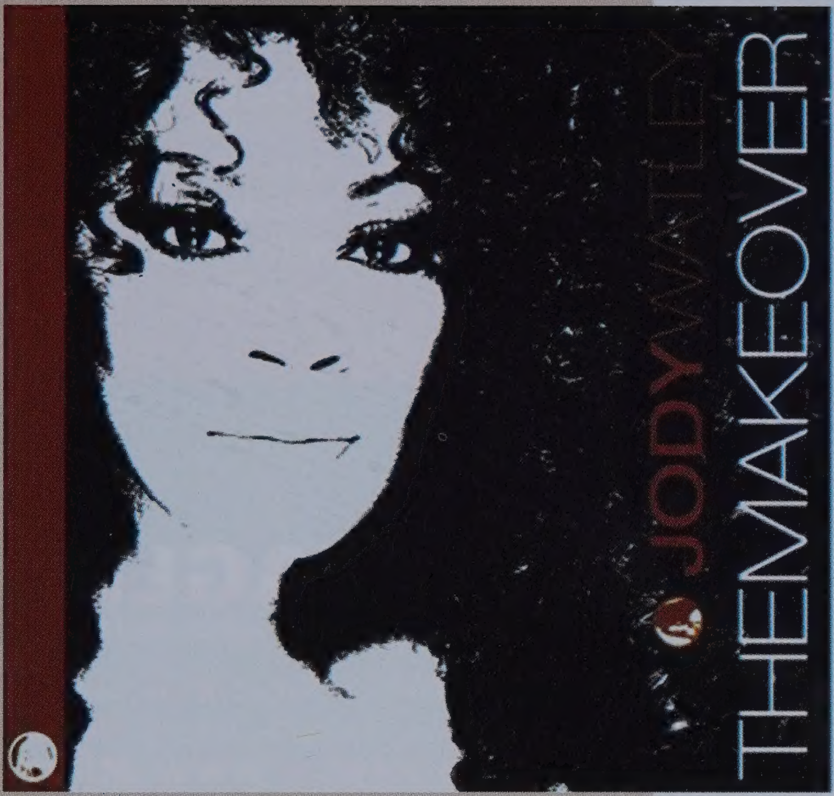
Watley states she wanted to make the track contemporary to teach a new generation not be concerned with hate-eration.

THE ALBUM’S NEW MATERIAL FEATURES powerful social messages. “A Beautiful Life” is dedicated to women in abusive relationships, and a dub mix by Aris Kokou is included on the album as well.

"The Makeover (Superstar)" is about the obsession our culture has with possessions, superficiality, celebrity and materialism, along with the prevalence of misogyny in the media.

"A Bed of Roses" is a testament to perseverance in the face of adversity in its many forms — family pressures, single parenthood and war just to start.

In addition to writing many of the tracks, Watley also served as executive producer for the CD and pressed it on her own record label, Avitone Records. In the liner notes, she references her negative experience with Atlantic Records. The label chose not to release her 1998 album "Flower" in the United States, no doubt contributing to this sister doing it for herself



"The Makeover" is a wonderful breath of musical fresh air. Watley puts her own mark on the classic tracks and turns out some excellent new music to add to her extensive discography.

She may not be the biggest name in electronica, but Watley is certainly carving out her place in the market with velvety vocals and a keen ear for the unique.

'The Makeover' is available on iTunes and other websites and can be purchased exclusively in Virgin Megastores from Avitone Records. www.jodywatley.net

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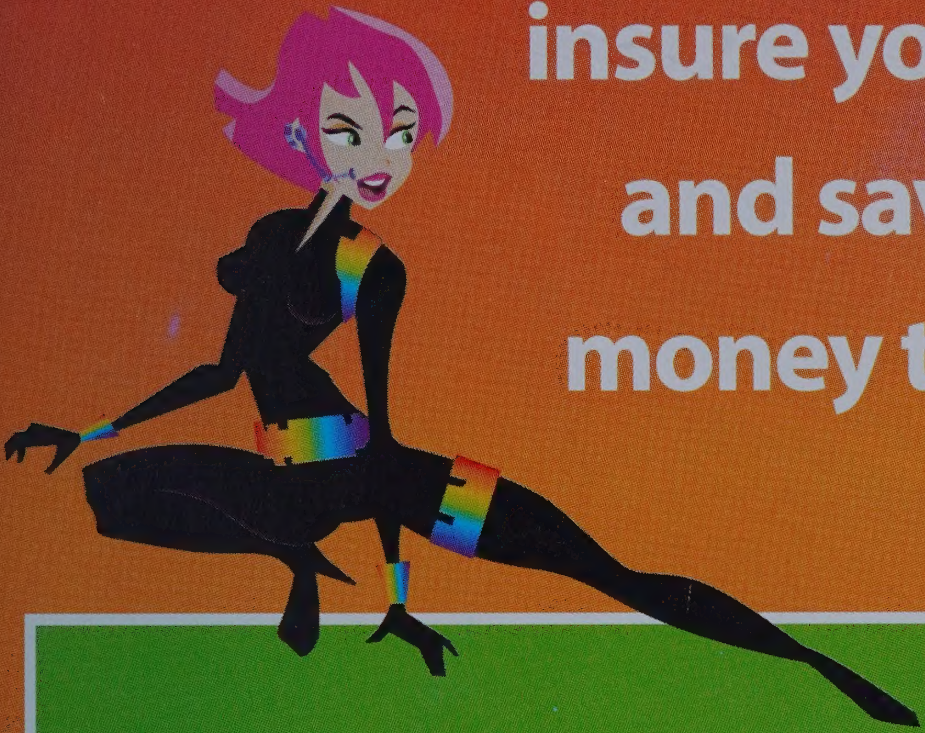

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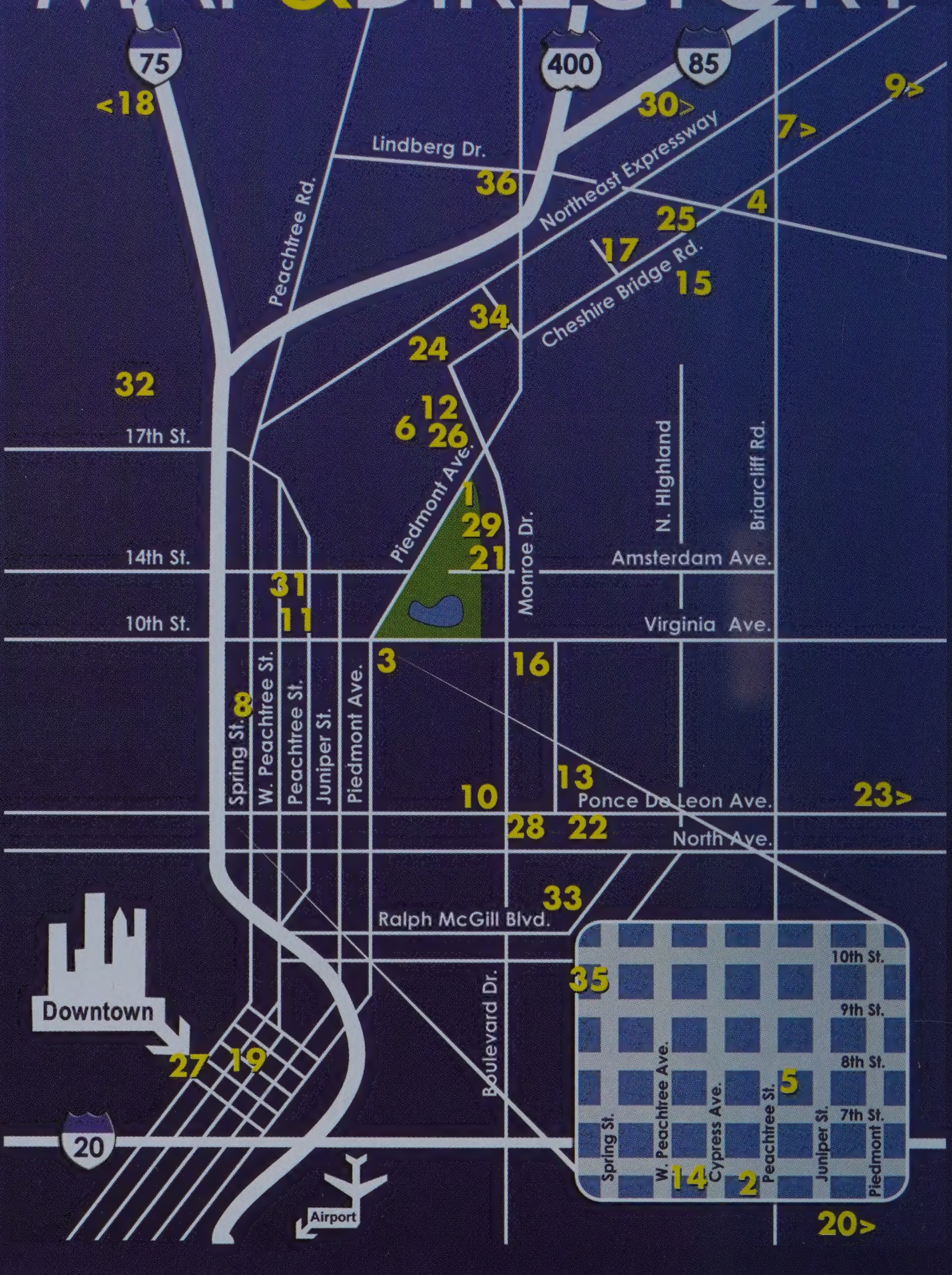
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FRIDAY.	**Jewels of the Oasis** Show with Nicole Page Brooks Monthly Drag Queen Talent Contest last Friday of each month
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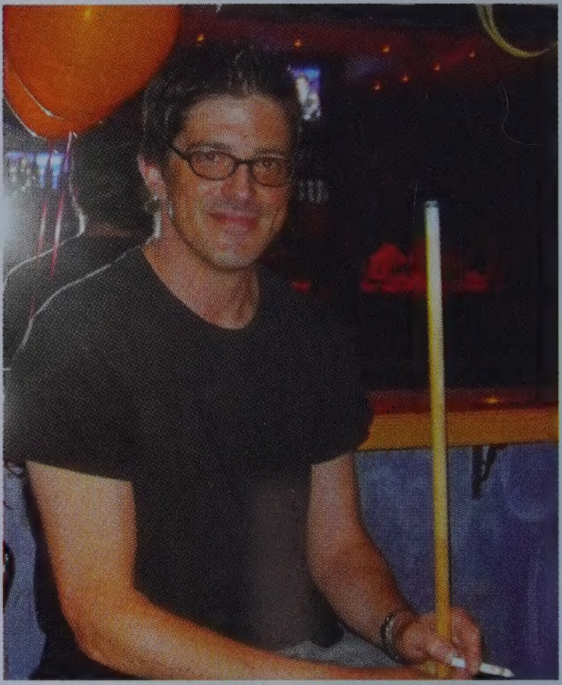

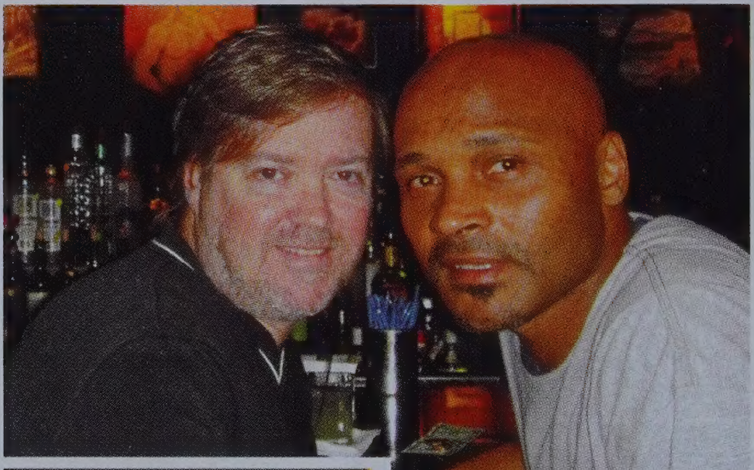

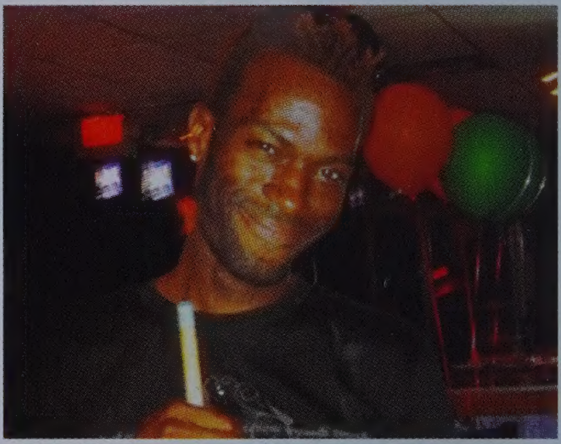

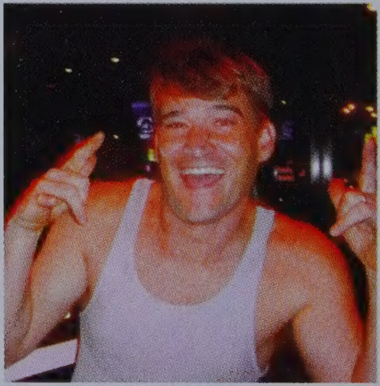

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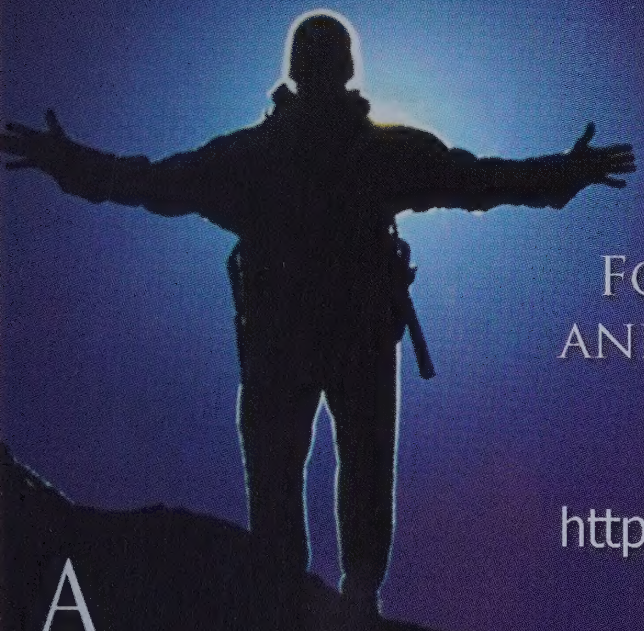

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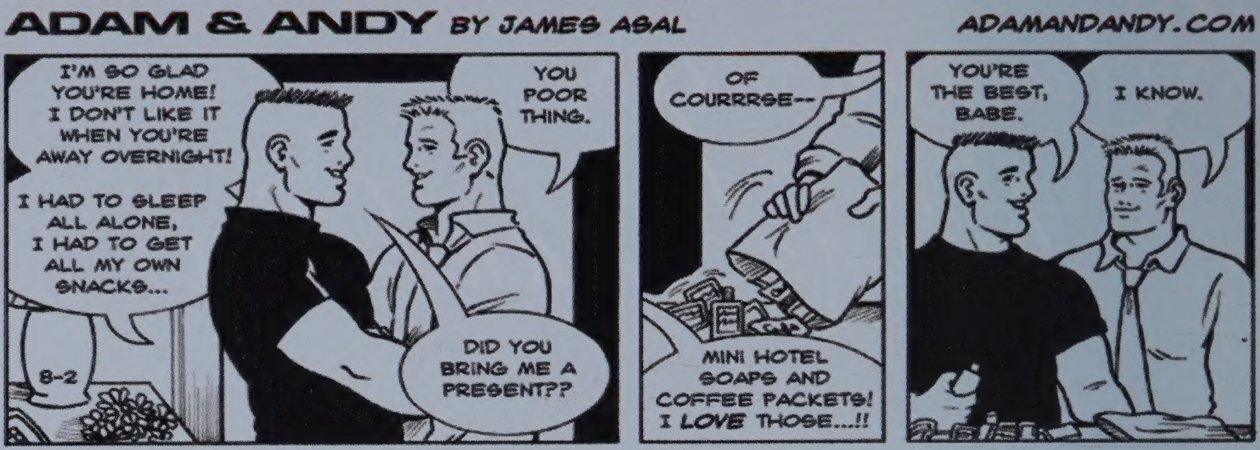
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8-2
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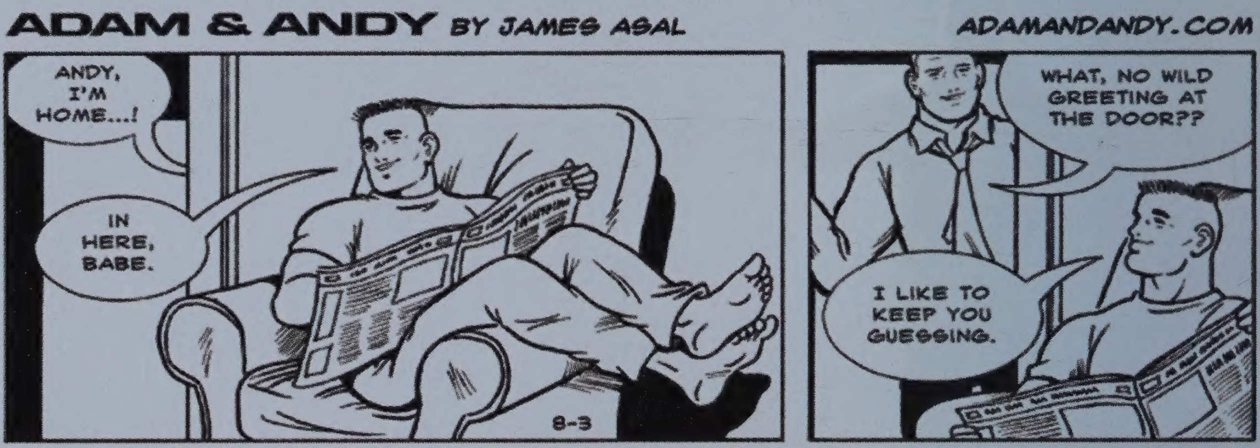
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NEED WOOD?

BY WOODY MILLER

KISS ME, I'VE GOT GONORRHEA!

How tongue wrestling can send you **reaching for antibiotics**

HEY WOODY!

First of all, I love your style. You get a lot of flack for being a bit raunchy, but I appreciate your honesty.

Here's the deal: I was out with "bad influence" friends. We all crashed at a friend's house, and in my fucked-up state, I went down on a guy. I had heard he was hung really big, and I wanted to find out.

I jerked off while I went down on him, but there was no genital contact at all. Plus, he didn't even cum. A few weeks later, I realized I had gonorrhea and got it from sucking this guy's dick.

What I need to know is, I thought you could only get sexually transmitted diseases by genital contact? Does it make it more risky if I get cum in my mouth?

I would like to suck cock with a clear conscience. Please enlighten me. I could ask my doctor, but he wouldn't be nearly as entertaining as you.

— OFF WITH THE HEAD

DEAR OFF:

Oh, sure. I'm nothing but a joke book to you. But while we're on the subject of jokes, I have the perfect one for you:

Four Catholic ladies are having coffee. The first one says, "My son is a Priest. When he walks into a room, everyone says, 'father'."

The second one chirps up, "My son is a Bishop. Whenever he walks into a room, everyone says 'Your Grace'."

The third Catholic lady says smugly, "My son is a Cardinal. When he walks into a room, everyone says 'Your Eminence'."

The fourth Catholic lady sips her coffee in silence. The first three ladies all ask, "Well...?"

She replies, "My son is a 6' 2", hard-bodied stripper, and hung like a rhino. When he walks into a room, everyone says, "Oh, my God..."

My point, as if I had one, is that when you read what I'm about to write you're going to say "Oh, My God."

You can get gonorrhea by just kissing a guy. Say it with me: "Oh, my fucking God."

That's what I said when my doctor delivered the news. At first, I thought he was drunk. Then I thought no, it's more likely that I was drunk. All I know is that one of us usually is.

But the fact still stands: You can get gonorrhea from just kissing.

THE BIG G IS MOST COMMONLY SPREAD during genital contact, but it can be passed, say, from his genitals to Trick's throat. Then Trick kisses you savagely, buffing your tonsils with his tongue to a spit shine. Suddenly, you are STD case # Infinity at the CDC.

Admittedly, that's pretty rare. The real concern is genital-to-genital transmission. And no, he doesn't have to cum in your mouth for you to get it.

With 650,000 people infected each year, gonorrhea is the second most-reported infectious disease in the United States. Roughly 75 percent of all cases are aged 15-29.

Gonorrhea, like my readership, likes to grow in the warm, moist areas of the mouth, throat and anus. Is this a Party 'n Play bacterium or what?

Symptoms include a burning sensation when urinating and a yellowish white discharge. Symptoms usually appear two to five days after infection.

Treatment is easy: Swallowing. Antibiotics, I mean. Everything else you should spit out.

Oh, and what was that line about "I wanna suck cock with a clear conscience?" What are you, a priest? There'll be no associating "conscience" with cocksucking here. I got cash flow to consider.

Woody is the author 'Men Are Pigs, But We Love Bacon.' Reach him at needwood@mac.com.

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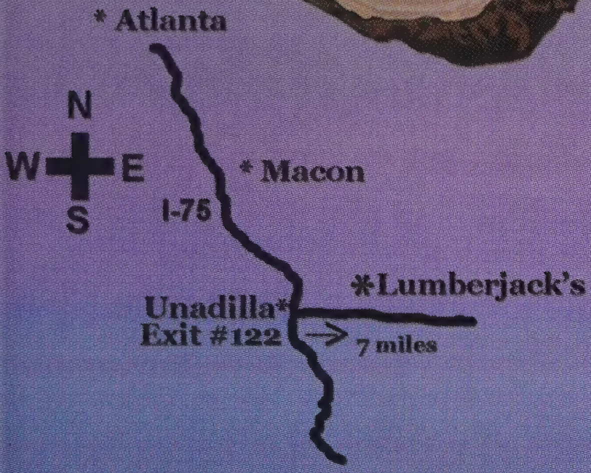
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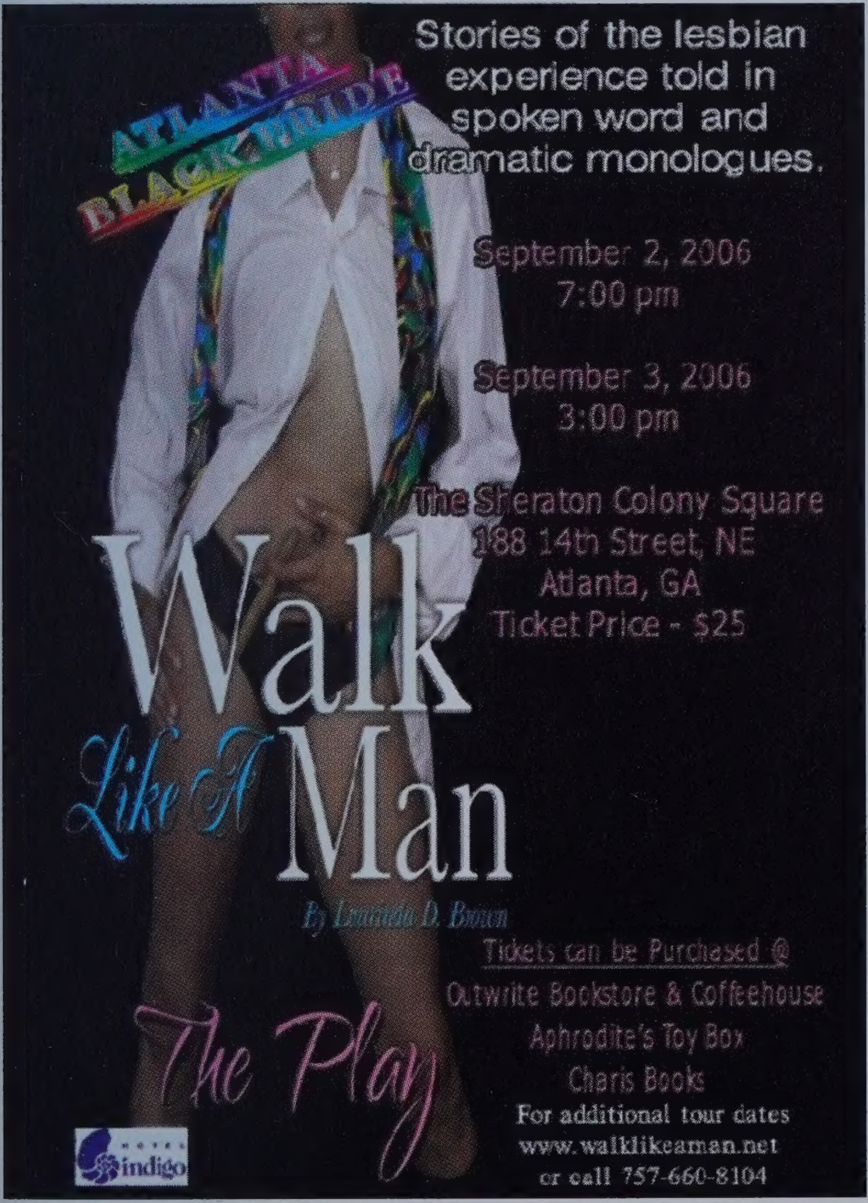

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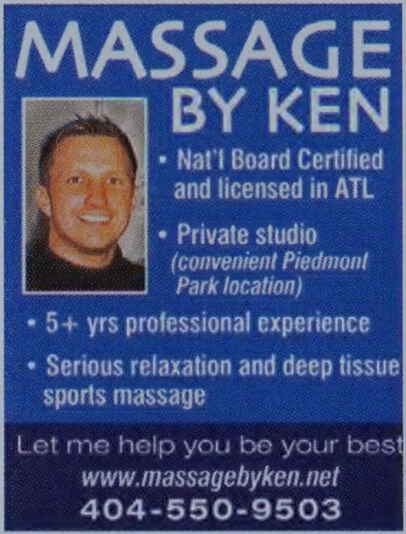
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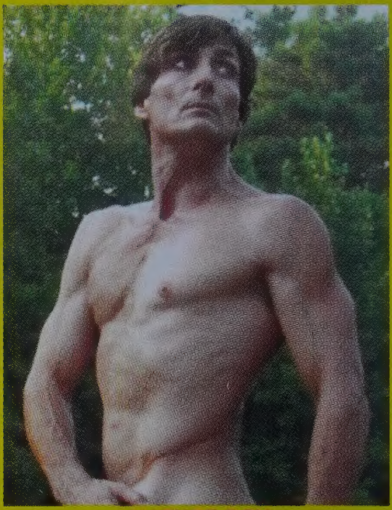

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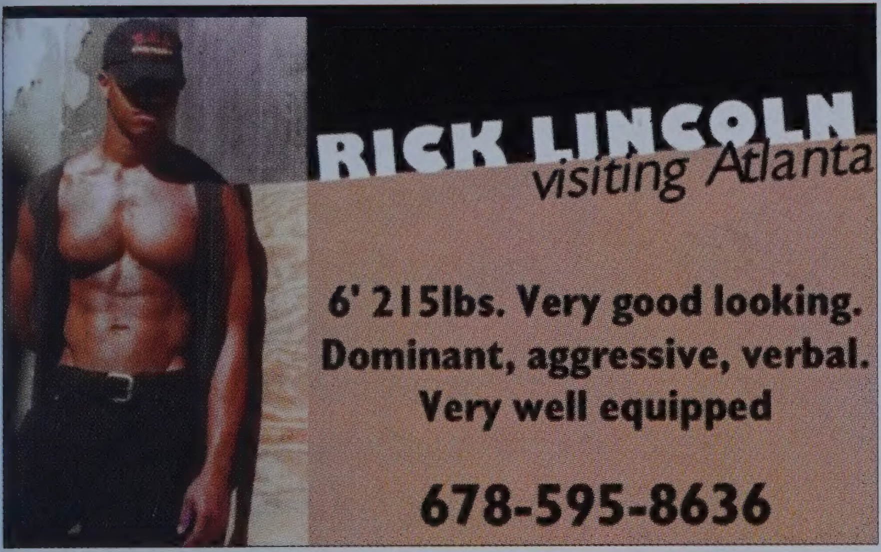
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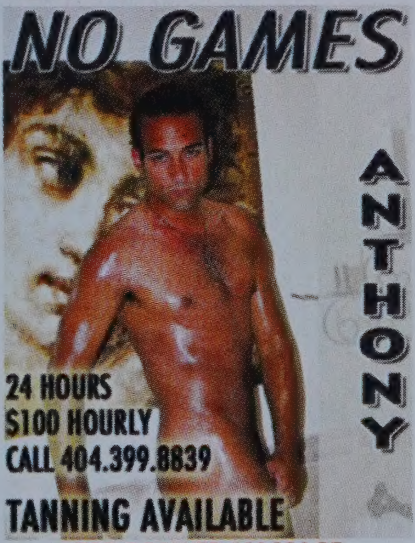
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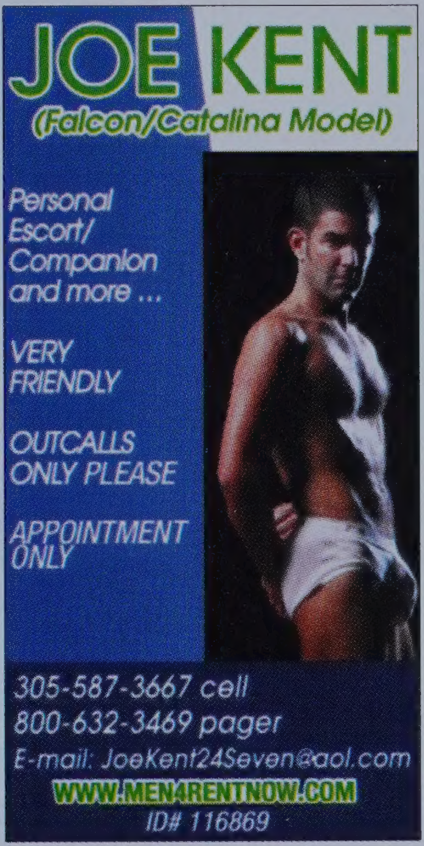
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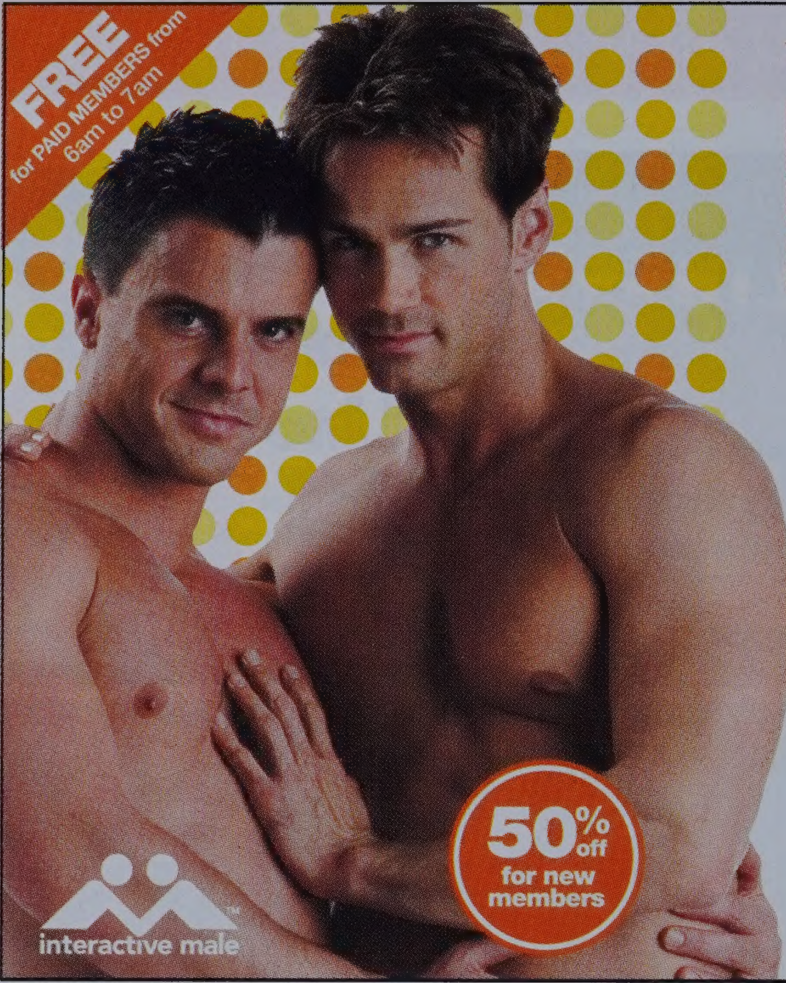
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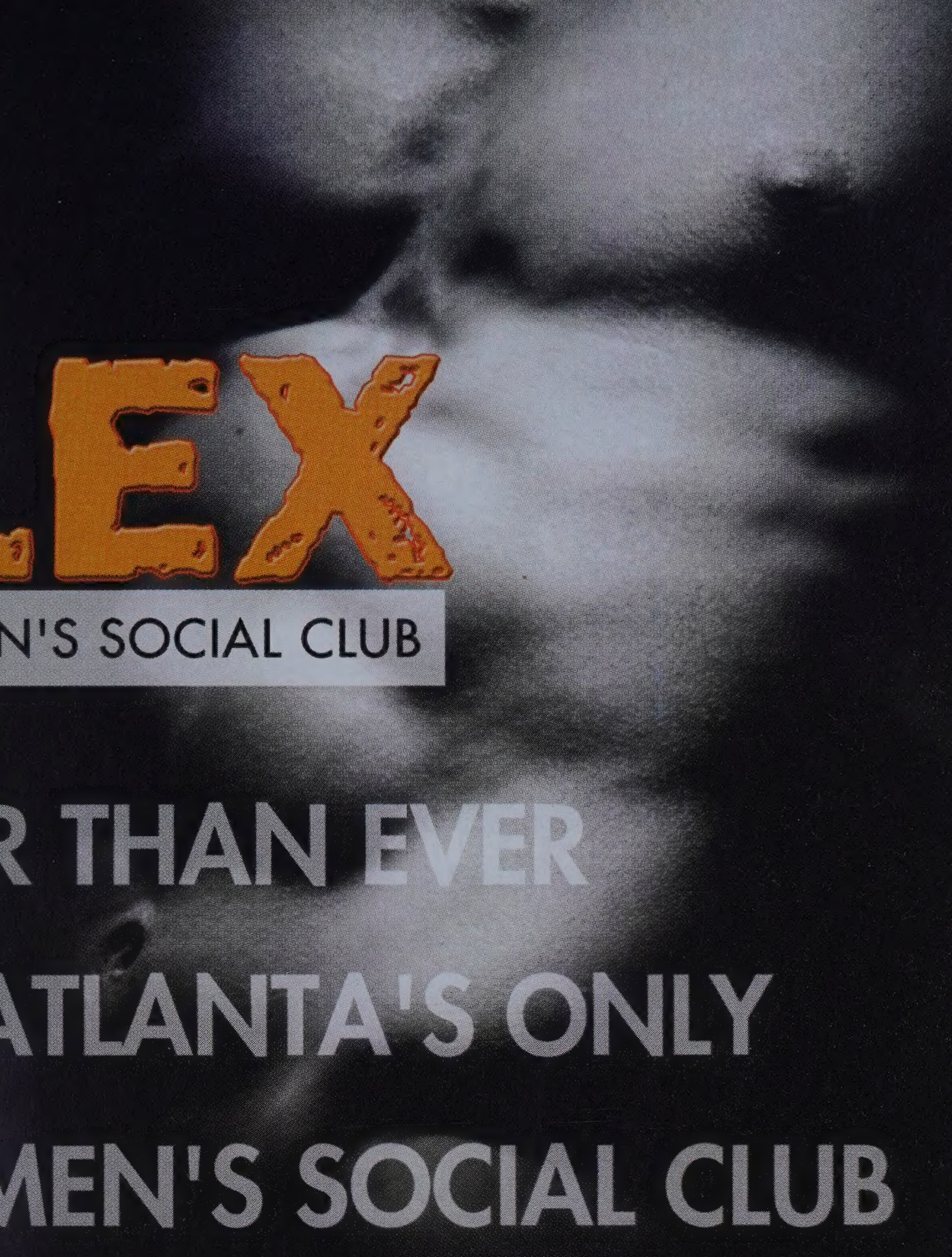

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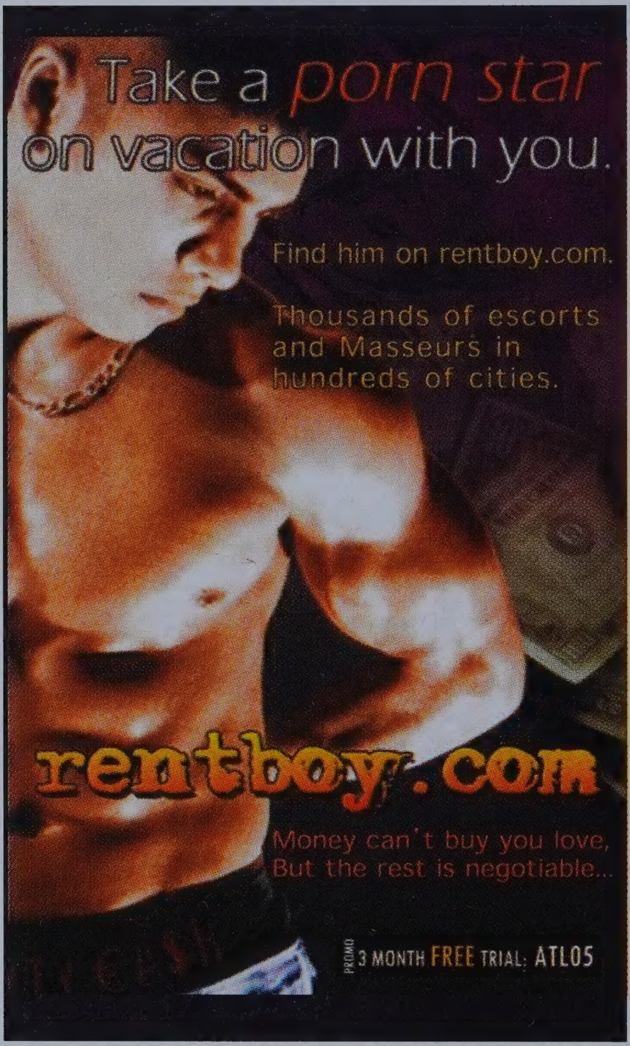

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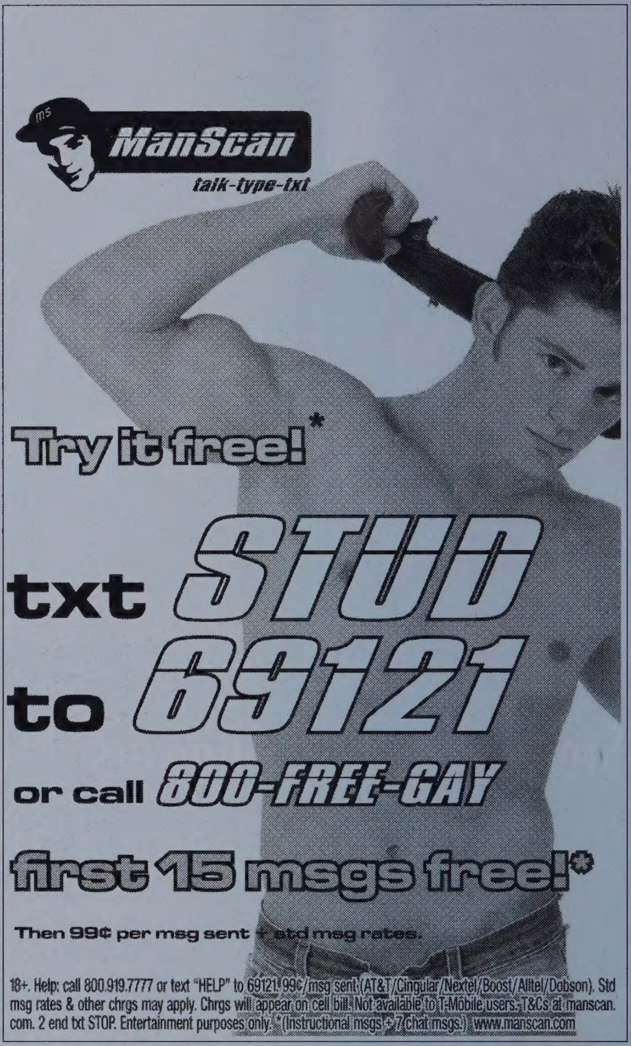

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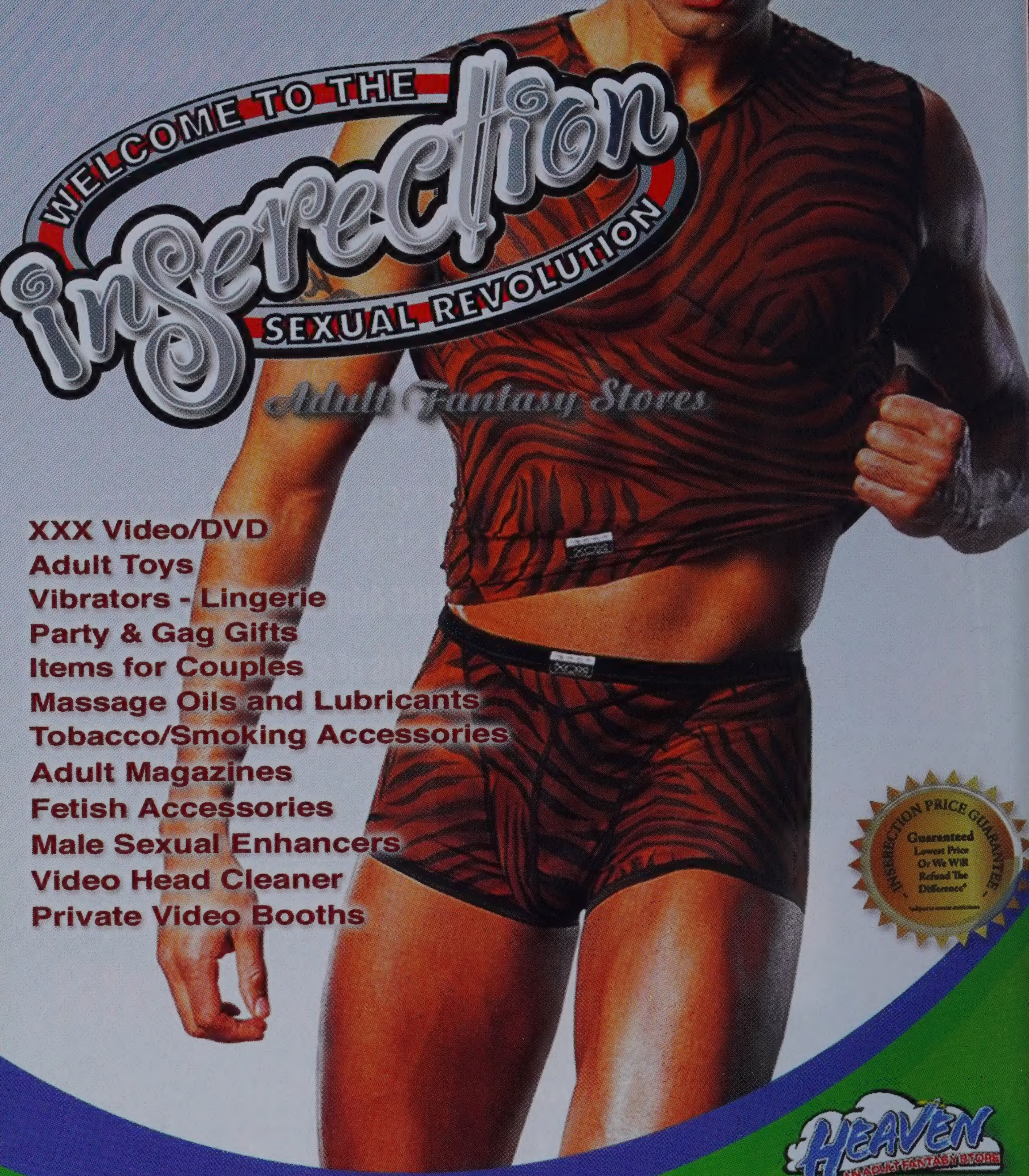

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BITCHSESSION

> “You say online that it's both of you or not at all and then hook up one-on-one afterward. Enough already!”

To the rich bitch who came to our hotel room and then did not want to have a threesome: Stop calling my boyfriend to ask us out to the gym and to do other things together. Either put out or back off and give us our privacy.

Your boyfriend says he'd be "open" to dating me if he wasn't with you? That's just code for "I'm in this, so I feel like I should give it a try, but really I'd prefer you if I hadn't started already."

Don't ask for approval and praise and then turn your back or say nothing when I ask your opinion.

The homophobe called me a faggot, so I called him a pussy man because "you are what you eat." He said, "That must make you a dick." I said, "Yeah, a dick can always screw you, pussy."

To all the guys who try to hook up in the shower at a certain local gym: Get a clue. Those that can, do. Those who can't, go to gay gyms.

Sex to further a career?! If I were 22 again and told to sleep with powerful men while I can, I'd sue your ass into the ground while I still have a lawyer. Some young men have standards.

The problem with gay men is that they don't listen to — wait, what was that quote again?

We need to start showing up at the Fred Phelps Westboro Baptist Church anti-gay protests with our own signs. Mine will say "Come join the Westboro Baptist Pedophile Church!"

Making snide remarks about someone's home and furnishings does not mean you are cultured. It means you are an extremely rude guest who will not be invited back.

My social life was so much better when I had low self-esteem. Trying to please everyone, letting people use me and disregard my feelings did wonders! Associating only with people who are good for me basically means I spend a lot more time home alone feeling better about myself. Yippee!

No, homosexuality is not a Western import. In fact, in large parts of the world, homophobia is. Learn your own history before lecturing the rest of us on it.

I'm Jewish and never even heard of the Kabbalah until Madonna popularized it. Funny thing is, even though I believe in Jewish teachings and I like Madonna, I don't want to hear about the Kabbalah because it sounds like embarrassingly pathetic bullshit. Go figya.

Got problems? Make a "pro" and "con" list. Be honest. If someone or something is teetering in between, throw them on the "con' side. Finished? Rip off the "con" side and toss it. Go with the "pro" side. Your life will improve instantly!

Bitch Boy responds: Why actually deal with problems when you can just throw them away!

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